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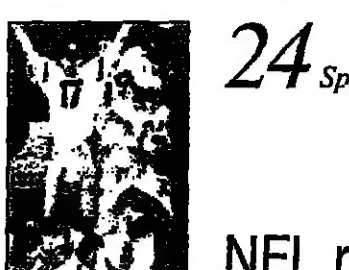
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Levy refuses to join government

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tried hard last night to reach MK David Levy by phone. Levy was not taking any calls. Netanyahu will keep trying today.

All this follows Levy's surprise announcement that he will not be returning to the government after all. Coming hot on the heels of the Levy bombshell, it was a very surprising reaction from Netanyahu — but so far to no avail.

At 6 p.m. yesterday evening, without any warning, Levy issued a statement saying that, in view of the "tendentious leaks and hostile rumor-mongering from the prime minister's direction, it appears that he has no intention of honoring the understandings we have reached. I have arrived at the inevitable conclusion that his offer was a hoax to begin with. I have therefore decided to put an end to this useless pre-occupation. I will not join this government."

The prime minister heard the announcement on the radio.

Despite the apparently resolute tone of the Levy statement, and the impression that he will accept no portfolio, Netanyahu almost immediately issued a reply saying that he "believes Levy could contribute to the government and aid it, especially at this juncture."

More significantly, Netanyahu vowed to "continue the efforts to bring Levy and the Geshet faction back to the Likud."

While Levy spoke of returning to the government, Netanyahu stressed the merger of Geshet into the Likud. Political observers, as well as Geshet sources, maintain that this is what Levy is really after, rather than just a ministerial job. His Geshet faction did badly in the local elections and Geshet needs the Likud's safe haven.

As he had done in past political crises, dating all the way back to days of late prime minister Menachem Begin, Levy made himself unavailable after delivering his blow.

According to some in Geshet, he will agree to reenter the government, if Netanyahu offers him the finance portfolio "in earnest, without any strings attached and pre-conditions."

Levy demanded that he be allowed to overhaul the budget proposal. Netanyahu does not want to start from scratch and he wants ultimate control over treasury policy.

The Geshet sources share some Likud insiders' opinion that this is just a tactical move on Levy's part to pressure Netanyahu on the eve of the possible vote on the early elections bill and on the economic arrangements bill.

If Levy does not switch back to Netanyahu's side at the last minute, Labor might submit the early elections bill to a vote. Netanyahu could win a week's postponement, however, by declaring it a confidence vote.

However, Netanyahu would prefer not to resort to such measures and he needs to pass the economic arrangements bill. This makes it the ideal time for Levy to increase his pressure on Netanyahu, said Likud MK Reuven Rivlin, a former Levy ally. "I hope that this is something which can still be fixed," he said.

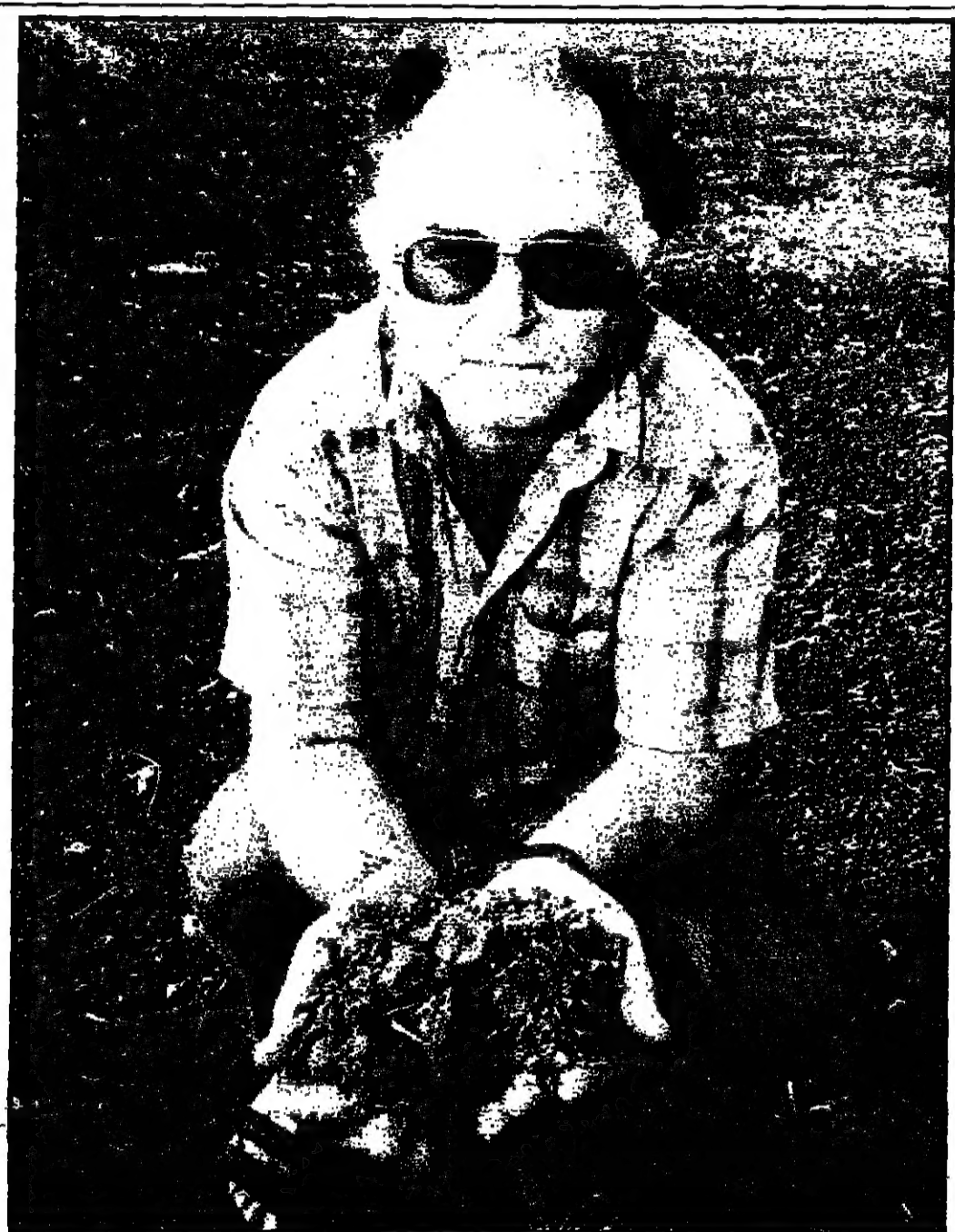
Shas MK Aryeh Deri said that "this is just a bargaining ploy. The real differences between Netanyahu and Levy are not all that great."

Meanwhile, the indications are that if Netanyahu does convince Levy by tonight to take the Treasury portfolio, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman will not oblige Netanyahu and resign, but will instead force Netanyahu to fire him.

David Harris adds:

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky last night expressed his disappointment with Levy's decision against rejoining the coalition.

"I would have welcomed David Levy, but not as finance minister. It is a pity, because it was definitely important to expand the coalition. But on the other hand, you don't know what the conditions were."



Praying for rain
 Kibbutz Yizre'el dairy farmer Jules Feldman yesterday shows how dry the soil of the Jezreel Valley has become and wonders how he will feed his cows due to the drought. 'My nightmare as a dairy farmer is about the wheat which has been planted, but has not yet started to germinate due to the lack of rain.' Wheat silage constitutes half the feed for the kibbutz cows. 'All we can do is hope, pray, and keep our fingers crossed that the rains will come,' said Feldman, 50, who is married with five children. (Story, Page 4)

US seeks 3-way summit

Officials unhappy about Clinton's Gaza visit

By DANNA HARMAN

The US has suggested holding a three-way summit next week among US President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, US officials said yesterday.

The meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to take place at Erez junction on Monday — before Clinton addresses the Palestinian National Council in Gaza — has yet to be confirmed by the sides.

However, Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan said the prime minister "has always expressed his willingness to meet with Arafat."

Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said, "There was no problem with the meeting as far as the Palestinians were concerned."

Clinton is expected to arrive here on Saturday night and will divide his time equally between the Palestinian Authority and Israel. He will spend his nights at the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem.

The president — accompanied by his wife Hillary, daughter Chelsea, and reportedly the family dog Buddy — will spend Sunday in Jerusalem, Monday in Gaza, and go on a whirlwind tour on Tuesday — meandering around

Bethlehem and picnicking on Masada before flying home.

Government officials are none too happy about the proposed division of time.

A senior official at the Prime Minister's Office said that treating Israel and the PA as equals is "offensive," and that Clinton's trip to Gaza is taking on a life of its own, much to the government's chagrin.

"The visit to Gaza was intended to be a way of disposing once and for all with the issue of the Palestinian charter," said the official.

"The whole matter now risks being undermined, however, as it seems like the vote will be a mockery and the trip will be turned into an implied US recognition of Palestinian statehood. Such recognition would invite a unilateral deceleration of Palestinian statehood on May 4 and cause havoc in the peace process."

The official added that, while there are almost 300 PNC members living outside the country, the government has received only 18 requests for entry permits, including one from PLO political department head Farouk Kaddoumi.

See SUMMIT, Page 2

Going to the brink the David Levy way

ANALYSIS

By SARAH HONIG

David Levy did it again yesterday. Once more he seemed to have called all political observers by surprise and knocked everyone off balance by taking the political plot through yet another dizzying twist.

But veteran Levy-watchers were less surprised.

Among those who know Levy well there was an expectation from the outset that he would not remain sweet-tempered to the very conclusion of the negotiating process.

Some went so far as to suspect that he had prepared the pretext for a breakup even before the off-again, on-again romance with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could flourish.

Levy could expect things to go wrong and not only because Netanyahu was courting too slowly. The entire episode was simply never about his entering the government again and picking up yet another portfolio.

His real interest was in returning to the Likud and assuring himself the face-saving No. 2 position on its next slate of Knesset candidates, as well as finding safe slots there for his cronies.

For Levy this was a near desperate need. His agreement to

consider rejoining the coalition did not occur because of a change of heart on his part.

The timing tells all. He agreed to go back just after the local elections, in which his Geshet list did extremely badly even on his own turf, the development towns.

It was clear, and the polls backed this up, that an independent Geshet ticket could not pass the Knesset threshold. Levy needed the Likud coattails.

Netanyahu may have thought he could promise such a merger, but the Likud ministers, MKs and central committee activists thought otherwise.

The notion of packing the elected 2,700-member forum with 500 unelected Geshet delegates raised a hue and cry in the Likud. The merger had to be put on the back burner and all that remained in the meantime was the coalition deal.

At this point Levy was already peeved, which is why he opted for the finance portfolio rather than national infrastructure. There are suggestions from Geshet sources that he did this as a means of breaking up the talks, which were meaningless for him once they did not guarantee his faction's future inside the Likud.

Another point of view is that all this is just another extreme Levy tactic, that he is ostensibly haggling over the finance portfolio, while in effect seeking to push the Likud into giving in on the party merger, which is the issue really vital to him.

Levy's decision boosts Labor's hopes

By SARAH HONIG

Geshet leader David Levy's announcement yesterday that he will not be entering the government after all has infused Labor with new hope that its early elections bill is not doomed.

Some Laborites predicted last night that they might be able to put together the majority needed to pass the first reading.

Labor will during the day reassess the bill's chances and decide on whether to submit it for a vote this afternoon.

If the bill passes all three readings, the Knesset will be dissolved and early elections will be called.

Labor's final decision will hinge on whether the bill's sponsors judge that it stands a chance of winning the minimum support of 61 MKs.

One of the bill's sponsors, Labor MK Haim Ramon, was buoyed by Levy's announcement.

If Levy and his three-member

National Religious Party as a unit, or any of its individual MKs, do not support the early elections bill.

The catch is that if the bill is defeated in its first reading today, it or a similar bill cannot be submitted again for another six months, unless 61 MKs are found to demand an earlier vote.

The Labor bill is sponsored by Ramon and party secretary-general Ra'anan Cohen. Both conferred with Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak yesterday and agreed to adopt a wait-and-see attitude before deciding on whether to postpone the vote or not.

Another early elections bill is also pending, this one sponsored by Meretz MK Haim Oron. Meanwhile, Barak presented his ideas for overhauling Labor's image to the party central committee yesterday.

The worried committee members did not get an answer as to whether or not he supports doing away with the primaries for Knesset candidates, as was done in the Likud a year ago.

Barak did say he wants to change the party's name, move it to new offices, employ new campaign experts and substitute professional administrators for party functionaries.

Barak told the central committee that he likes the name New Labor, but will not decide until after the party renewal has begun.

He also announced that he would personally head the party's campaign headquarters in the next elections.

He wants the party to move out of its present home at 110 Hayarkon Street in Tel Aviv and relocate in a modern new office complex, also in Tel Aviv, to symbolize its renewal and modernization.



MK Ehud Barak

Knesset may vote on bill to cancel law for direct election of prime minister, Page 3

Geshet faction vote for the bill, Ramon said, "the other votes needed to pass it will be found. If Levy does not at the last moment change his mind, then we will submit the bill."

Besides Levy, Ramon's chief hope is pinned on the Democratic Arab Party, which is likely to favor his bill now that the Wye process has been suspended.

Ramon said he can achieve the magical 61 MK figure "even if the

NIS 1.2b. road safety plan called 'a waste'

By HAIM SHAPIRO

One of the country's leading road safety experts has lambasted a massive NIS 1.2 billion proposal to reduce road deaths, unveiled yesterday by the Transport Ministry and the Road Safety Authority, as a "megalomaniac, bombastic, waste."

Prof. Elith Richter, head of the Betts Injury Prevention Project of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine, said the proposal, put forward by Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom and RSA Director-General Shmuel Herskovitz, would involve spending huge sums to lower the road accident death toll by 3 percent a year.

Richter said he doubts whether the proposal would achieve even that goal.

The proposal is based on activities in 10 different areas related to road safety and labeled (in the text in English) as the "Top Ten." They include:

- Making roads more driver friendly. According to Yahalom, this would involve reengineering some highways, erecting better side barriers and lane dividers, and extending shoulders dozens of meters so that a driver's mistake would not necessarily be a fatal one. Richter charges the NIS 471 million allocated for "infrastructure" is an underhanded way of building roads, and that local road engineering is "sleazy."
- Dealing with dangerous sections. Special attention would be given to stretches of road and intersections with high numbers of accidents.
- Limiting urban traffic, both in residential areas and at pedestrian crossings. This is one area in which Richter is in accord with the plan, especially if it involves introducing additional roundabouts.
- Special attention to heavy vehicles, including trucks and buses. According to Yahalom, special safety officers would be responsible not just for large trucking firms, but for individual truck drivers as well. Richter said that without serious attention to the work conditions of drivers, there could be little improvement in this area.
- Enforcing traffic laws on the highways and in towns. While Yahalom spoke of the introduction of automatic cameras, backed by computers, to record speeders and send out tickets, Richter said that only by flooding the roads with such devices would there be a significant drop in road fatalities.
- Safety accessories. These include special seats for children and infants, head rests, seat belts, helmets for motorcyclists and daytime

use of headlights.

• Publicity. According to Richter, the NIS 450 million allocated for education and publicity is a total waste of money.

• Legislation, regulations, and court activity. Yahalom and Herskovitz said they view the present speed limits as satisfactory, but Richter said that although the lowering of speed limits is an important factor in saving lives, Herskovitz had actually raised speed limits, both on major highways and other roads.

Yahalom noted that although every life is dear, the number of road deaths per 100,000 inhabitants had actually dropped from 13.4 in 1951 to nine in 1997, despite the massive increase in kilometers of road and the number of vehicles in proportion to the population. Herskovitz said the plan is based on studies carried out by "the most developed countries of the world."

Richter responded that the Betts Project and the Metuna road safety organization had put forward a plan based on projects carried out in Western Europe and in Australia, to blanket the road with automatic speed cameras. He said such a plan would cut traffic deaths in half in three to five years and not only pay for itself, but actually bring money into the state coffers.

27 pupils hurt as bus overturns in Arava

Twenty-seven pupils from Beersheba's Amit High School were injured yesterday when their bus overturned on the Arava highway near Kibbutz Ketura. Yehuda Buchris and Yoni Benizri were seriously injured and were being treated in the trauma unit at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

The two were trapped inside the bus for an hour, and after being

rushed to Josephthal Hospital in Eilat it was decided to fly them by helicopter to Soroka. Twenty-five pupils who were lightly to moderately injured were hospitalized in Eilat.

The Egged bus was taking 47 ninth- and tenth-graders on a class trip when the driver lost control and it flipped and moved into the oncoming lane.

Police last night said the accident was caused by "excessive speed and not keeping a distance," Israel Radio reported. The bus "black box" indicated the driver had been speeding at 110 kmh for part of the trip on a road where the limit is 90.

Several pupils said they had asked the driver to slow down several times, but he kept speeding. (Ium)



See LEVY, Page 2

Britain to unveil £25m. package for Holocaust victims tonight

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — The British government is planning to unveil a £25 million package to compensate Holocaust victims and their heirs whose assets were seized by the British government during World War II.

The announcement is to be made in London tonight in a speech to the British Israel Chamber of Commerce by Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Peter Mandelson.

Details of an independent panel that is to be established to settle claims will be formally unveiled in parliament tomorrow.

Mandelson will tell the chamber of com-

merce, which encourages two-way trade between Israel and Britain, that the government has accepted the recommendations of Lord Archer of Sandwell, who was appointed to conduct an official inquiry into the compensation claims.

This will mean that all victims of Nazi persecution or their heirs will be eligible to make a claim and that the government will compensate them for confiscated property at current prices.

"This has not been easy," Mandelson said. "There are real practical difficulties in setting up a scheme more than 50 years after the event."

The decision follows a protracted campaign by Nazi victims and their heirs in Europe, who had deposited their assets in British banks for safekeeping before the war.

After the outbreak of war, the assets and property of some 225,000 companies and individuals who were based in German-occupied Europe were designated as enemy property and seized by the Custodian of Enemy Alien Property.

A program was established after the war to compensate Nazi victims whose assets had been seized, and by 1971 some £1.6m. had been paid out.

But the process was hampered by excessive

bureaucratic obstacles, causing the government to apologize earlier this year for the insensitivity shown by British officials in processing claims.

Lord Janner of Bramstone, the chairman of the London-based Holocaust Educational Trust, which has spearheaded the campaign for compensation, noted that when the wartime British government seized the assets it made no distinction between the property of the Nazis and the people murdered by them.

Janner, a veteran Labor parliamentarian, hailed the decision as "a remarkable gesture of honor and faith," and said the government had done "the decent thing."

PM sees parents for and against Lebanon pullout

By DAMIA HARMAN

A year and a half after they asked for an audience, representatives from the Four Mothers group met yesterday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to demand a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

Four mothers and three fathers of the group sat with Netanyahu in his office for over an hour, laying out their fears over the IDF's continued presence in southern Lebanon, their demands that the government move to redeploy, and a few practical suggestions.

Netanyahu heard them through, listening carefully, asking questions and presenting his perspectives, but made no promises, said Rachel Ben-Dor, one of the founders of the group who took part in the meeting.

Netanyahu reiterated his stand on the question of a unilateral withdrawal, stressing that while the government wants to leave Lebanon, it could do so only if ensured the northern border would be protected.

"This is no easy task, it is very complicated and difficult," said Netanyahu, "and I am willing to hear the suggestions of various voices within Israeli society."

Ben-Dor, whose 21-year-old son is serving in Lebanon and is to receive an "outstanding soldier" citation next week, said all she wants is for him to come home.

"It is frustrating to finally sit before the man who has the power in his hands to make a difference, and realize he does not agree with you," said Ben-Dor. "Maybe some of our words seeped in. We hope if anything new comes up at the next cabinet meeting, it nothing does, that is really too bad."

Following the meeting, Netanyahu attended a suddenly announced meeting with a group of bereaved parents who oppose a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

"The only thing that bothers me is that people are dying," said Ben-Dor, "but I find it strange that we waited more than a year and a half for the meeting, and they were brought in immediately."

Deri: Tests show my people didn't wiretap

By MICHAEL TUDELMAN

Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri said yesterday all his associates have taken a lie detector test to verify that the tapping of Shas Labor Minister Eli Yishai's home and office phones was not initiated by anyone close to him.

Yishai said yesterday that he, too, would be happy to take a lie detector test, if necessary to disprove the rumors of rivalry in Shas's leadership.

"I've had it," Deri told Gali Zahal's Razi Barka yesterday. "If someone wants to be head of Shas instead of me, welcome. Every morning I open the newspaper and hear on the radio that people close to Yishai are talking of usurping me. I haven't slept for several nights."

Deri was commenting on reports of tension between himself and Yishai over the wiretapping affair revealed last week, reportedly from rivalry in Shas's leadership.

Deri said yesterday that he employed the best lie detector operators in the country and all their tests indicate none of his people is involved in the activity against Yishai.

"I call on Yishai and other Shas leaders to send their people to lie detector tests as well, so that we can finally find out who are the little foxes sabotaging Shas's vineyard," Deri said.

Yishai, who heard the interview was taking place, left the cabinet meeting and telephoned the radio to say, "I accept Deri's challenge and will immediately instruct all those close to me to take a lie detector test. I, too, want to clear the air in the party."



President Ezer Weizman pays a condolence visit yesterday to the family of Osama Musa Natshe.

(Sami Tof/Ha'aretz)

Weizman visits family of Arab stabbing victim

By ELLI WOHLGELERWITZER

President Ezer Weizman paid a condolence visit yesterday to the family of Osama Musa Natshe, who was knifed to death last Wednesday outside his home in the capital's Abu Tor neighborhood.

"I came here not because of any obligation, but because I wanted to come here," Weizman told the grieving family. "I hope not to have to do this again; this is the second time I'm doing this."

Weizman was referring to the stabbing death of Khairi Alkam, a father of nine from the city's A-Tur neighborhood, who was attacked on May 13.

Natshe and Alkam are two fatalities of seven victims of a serial Arab-slasher who has been

operating in Jerusalem. The other stabbings occurred on February 17, March 10, March 12, April 29, and May 7.

"You are angry — and rightfully so," Weizman told the family, which included Natshe's children. "Every time you hear the news, my heart is open," he told them.

Asked by the family why the two video cameras at the top of the street were not operating, Weizman said: "I can't speak for the police, but I am sure they are doing everything possible to find out why the cameras weren't working."

Police believe the same person committed all seven stabbings, and that he is an Israeli Jewish nationalist.

A suspect was arrested in October on suspicion of committing the stabbings, but was

released a week later after police found no evidence linking him to the crimes.

Meanwhile, clashes with Palestinian youth that have been going on for a week continued yesterday afternoon, as two Molotov cocktails were thrown at police vehicles near the police station on Sultan Suleiman Street.

The first bottle fell short of its intended target, igniting in the street, while the second hit a Border Police jeep, causing light damage to the tires. There were no reports of injuries.

Speaking to reporters outside the Natshe house on Naomi Street, Weizman said that the relationship between Jewish and Arab neighbors on the street "should be an example of coexistence for the whole peace process. I'm sorry that this happened, it's a great embarrassment."

SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

There is a fear on the part of the government, therefore, that even if there is a vote on the nullification of the sections of the Palestinian charter calling for Israel's destruction, most of the PNC members will be absent — obviously defeating the purpose of the exercise.

Now that Clinton's visit to Gaza does not seem as great an idea as it was touted as being during the immediate aftermath of the Wye signing, government ministers hurried to distance themselves from it.

At the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday, sources said Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai denied he had instigated the idea of the visit, and Netanyahu insisted it was solely Clinton's initiative.

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, in turn, backed up Netanyahu, saying he remembered Clinton suggesting the visit in the early days at Wye — before Mordechai and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon had even arrived in Maryland.

Some ministers went so far as to suggest Clinton be discouraged from coming completely, and Science Minister Silvan Shalom and Netanyahu got embroiled in an argument over who was leaking reports regarding the invitation's origin.

The heated debate ended with Shalom telling Netanyahu "he should be ashamed" of his behavior and Netanyahu telling Shalom he "needed to learn some respect."

Shalom later apologized, and the argument was erased from the protocol.

Mordechai suggested that the infighting end, and that while the

government's position regarding the PNC gathering should be made clear — Clinton should be welcomed with all the honor due the president of the US.

In Gaza, meanwhile, oblivious to the Israeli heartache over the visit, Palestinians were in full preparation mode for the historic gathering.

Getting ready to welcome the Clintons to Gaza City, flag makers manufactured some 25,000 little US plastic flags yesterday and thousands more were ordered from Taiwan.

Reporters were told to arrive in Gaza a day and a half before the meeting for security checks, and street cleaners took up their brooms.

In addition, despite the government's continued claims that there would be no further redeployments until the Palestinians stopped pressing for the release of

political prisoners, stopped all violence, and stopped talking about the declaration of independence — none of which has happened — the PA is going full forward with its part of implementing the accord.

Palestinian Police chief Ghazi Jabali said that weapon confiscations would begin immediately, as the 15-day grace period for handing in illegal arms had ended.

Violators are to be punished under the new Palestinian weapons law, which imposes a maximum three-year jail term and top fine equivalent of around \$7,500.

There was no Israeli comment on the weapons' confiscation efforts, but Netanyahu did say that regarding another matter — the prisoner uprisings — the PA has a long way to go before the situation is made right.

Netanyahu again accused the PA of inciting the unrest, a charge that

the PA hotly rejects.

Channel 2 reported, meanwhile, that Netanyahu had secretly agreed to freeze the Wye implementation days before the attack on the soldier in Ramallah took place — and to use Palestinian violations as an excuse.

The report said that MK Nissan Smoliansky (National Religious Party) told Netanyahu that if he went ahead with further West Bank troop withdrawals, the NRP would topple the government.

Bar-Ilan would not comment directly on the report. He said Israel would live up to its part of the deal once the Palestinians had lived up to their commitments.

"The government insists on reciprocity and will continue to insist on reciprocity and compliance by the Palestinian Authority. We are not looking for violations — unfortunately they are only too obvious."

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Family members will arrive on Monday, December 7 on TWA fl. #884 at approximately 3:55 p.m. Burial will take place approximately 1 1/2 hours later at the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery in Jerusalem.

The Family

LEVY

Continued from Page 1

Levy, it should be noted, took umbrage a day before the crucial early elections bill could be voted

upon, as well as the economic arrangements bill. Netanyahu now acutely needs his three-vote dowry.

Significantly, Netanyahu mentioned the merger yet again last night, after he had omitted to make any reference to it for days.

The big question is whether Levy can at all be mollified now. He may indeed be posturing precariously on the brink, but — regardless of his original clever intentions — he has been known to get carried away and go over the edge.

We mourn the passing of our partner and friend

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and send our condolences to Lilian, Judy and the family

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سكرا من الواصل

Haredi journalist compares Israelis to 'Nazis'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid yesterday demanded that Haredi newspaper columnist Yisrael Eichler be prosecuted for comparing secular Israelis to Nazis.

Eichler wrote in the Belzer newspaper *Hamelune Haharedi*, which he edits, that "the Haredi public is not sufficiently aware of the Nazism developing against it in Israel. All the arguments in Nazi propaganda are today translated in Hebrew letters against the Haredim... whoever listens to the media and meets the new Germans, is stunned by the force of the animosity."

Sarid, who asked Attorney-General Eliyahu Rubinstein to press charges against Eichler, urged Rubinstein to draw the line between what is permissible and what is not in public debate, noting "any comparison to Nazism and Hitler must be totally out of bounds."

"Eichler has broken a new record of despicable villainy. He is not only an ignoramus and a moron, but a wicked malicious scoundrel," Sarid said. "He is not a Jew, for there is not a Jew in the world who accuses his brother of Nazism and Hitlerism."

Commenting on Sarid's statement, Eichler told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday, "This is a continuation of the anti-democratic terror of gagging and incitement against the Haredi public, which is going on in Israel, which is unparalleled in any democracy in the world."

Eichler acknowledged in an Israel Radio interview that his article was "a harsh one." He stressed he was not referring to all secular Israelis or all journalists "but the negation of the Haredi Jew and turning him into a subhuman who has no rights, to someone who spooks, who spawns children, who blackens the streets and threatens society and the state, that's the exact tactic used in Europe to prepare public opinion for what was to come."

Speaking on Israel Radio, columnist Yosef Lapid blasted Eichler, accusing him of "the worst kind of gangsterism" and of desecrating the same God in whose name Eichler calls himself a rabbi.

"What you're doing is an insult to all those who perished in the Holocaust and who survived. How can you compare Israeli media, which has a legitimate argument with the Haredim, to the Holocaust?" Lapid cried.

Meirad chairman Rabbi Michael Melchior also attacked Eichler's article, which he said was tantamount to profanity and is playing into the hands of the Holocaust deniers.



Clean, hot water

'Barney Miller' star Hal Linden, on an official visit as spokesman for the Jewish National Fund of America, listens to an explanation yesterday from Hadera River Park manager Emanuel Kaupstein. The park uses clean, hot water from the nearby power station for a wading canal, waterfalls, and a giant whirlpool.

(Joe Malcom)

Kibbutzim fight for Shabbat shopping

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's criticism of last week's court ruling enabling kibbutz shops to open on Shabbat and the Haredi parties' pressure on him to bypass the ruling aroused a storm in the political arena.

Netanyahu said over the weekend that he "was shocked by the ruling. It indicates the kibbutzim are living in another country and do not belong to the Jewish people."

Hakibbutz Ha'artzi secretary Avshalom Vilan warned that any attempt to change the present situation and restrict the secular public's freedom by legislation would lead to a culture war. "For ruling considerations and worrying over his seat, Netanyahu is willing to undermine the pillars of law and order in Israel," Vilan said.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said Netanyahu's reaction was tantamount to a declaration of war on the secular public in Israel. "MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), a law professor, called on Netanyahu not to intervene in court rulings nor give in to pressure from religious groups. 'It's legitimate to try to change the law, but I object to the attempts of the Haredim and prime minister to go around the court ruling,'" Rubinstein said.

The moderate religious Meimad movement said yesterday that the law regulating work and rest hours is basically a social one, rather than a religious one. Meimad chairman Rabbi Michael Melchior called on all the MKs to join a new pact on state and religion, enabling the secular public to conduct cultural, recreational, and leisure activities in exchange for not commercializing Shabbat.

Some 100 kibbutz shops and commercial centers were open on Saturday and no Labor Ministry inspectors were sent to write up reports. United Kibbutz Movement secretary Dudi Helman said, "when the prime minister decided to spend one of his Saturdays at Kibbutz Hagoshrim, scores of kibbutz members served him and his huge entourage, working night and day to provide for his every need, at the expense of their Shabbat rest and in violation of Shabbat laws."

Knesset set to vote on canceling direct elections

By NINA GILBERT

Although a majority of 61 MKs is not ensured, the Knesset is scheduled to vote today on the first reading of a bill to cancel the direct elections for prime minister law.

A total of 66 MKs have expressed support for the bipartisan legislation, according to one of its sponsors, MK Yossi Beilin (Labor).

The other sponsor is MK Uzi Landau (Likud).

"This is perhaps the last chance to save Israel's governmental system from deteriorating before our eyes from democracy into an unusual and rare combination of dictatorship and anarchy," Beilin said last night.

However, passage of the measure may depend on the support of United Torah Judaism and Likud ministers, who may vote against the bill or absent themselves from the House.

The passage of the bill could also be hampered by no-shows considered to be among the supporters. A Beilin aide said yesterday.

The bill, which requires a special majority of 61 MKs to pass, would cancel the two-vote system made into law in 1992 and first implemented in the 1996 elections. If the bill fails, it cannot be reintroduced for another six months.

Beilin and Landau have been holding talks to try to get their party colleagues to support the bill and arrive for the vote.

Both the Likud and Labor factions have decided to let their members vote according to their conscience, despite opposition to the bill by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor leader Ehud Barak.

A group of 27 former ministers sent a letter yesterday to Netanyahu and Barak calling on them to support the change.

"Direct elections are a threat to Israel's democracy and if we don't act now, we fear that it will be too late," said the former ministers - including Shimon Peres, Abba Eban, Yitzhak Shamir, and Shulamit Aloni.

The ministers are members of a lobby, the Council for Parliamentary Democracy, headed by former defense minister Moshe Arens.

The group's campaign has gained momentum since last month's municipal elections, which saw the decimation of Likud and Labor representation on local councils, alongside the rise of new parties, such as the Greens and senior citizens.

Another group, the Public Committee for a Constitution for the State of Israel, said that what is

needed "is to continue the reform and not to go backward."

The group noted that the system was aimed at taking the shape of Germany's model, which has a constituency system and a higher threshold for entry into parliament.

Its director, Prof. Uri Reichman, has spoken recently with Barak, who promised to try to persuade Avraham Shohat and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer not to support the change, the group said.

Most of Labor's MKs support the bill, while Likud support is split or wavering.

Hadash supports the bill, while the Democratic Arab Party is against it.

Meretz and The Third Way are split. Shas and Yisrael Ba'aliya are opposed. Moledet plans to vote for the measure, as does MK Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party.

Likud ministers have been put under heavy pressure by Netanyahu not to support the measure.

Netanyahu was instrumental in getting the direct elections system made into law.

It resulted in a cross between the presidential and the parliamentary systems, giving the executive branch greater independence without separating it from the legislature.

Government to try arrangements bill again

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

The government will try again today to introduce the budgetary arrangements bill to the Knesset plenum for its first reading, according to Finance Ministry spokesman Eli Yosef.

On previous occasions, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman has prevented the bill from coming to the plenum for initial approval, as it became clear there would be no majority for the legislation because of coalition jockeying following the Wye talks.

Before Neeman last attempted to introduce the bill at the end of November, he warned that he would withdraw the entire 1999 state budget if coalition MKs made it clear there would be no majority for the accompanying arrangements bill.

Originally, this legislation contained the specifics of the budget allocations for the coming 12 months, but under the Netanyahu government the Treasury's budget department has used the bill to introduce a wide range of measures that would in all probability not be approved by the legislature if they were presented as separate bills.

Last year the ministry included plans for increased health fees for doctors' visits and a variety of other proposals that proved unpopular with the Knesset's social lobby.

In a regular year, the bill is introduced some two months before the December 31 second and third readings of the budget and arrangements bills. However, coalition whip Meir Sheerit (Likud) maintains it would be possible to push the legislation through in a matter of hours should the need arise.

The decision to try once again was taken by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, said Yosef. He added the decision was taken after consultation with Neeman. It is expected the bill will be introduced in its original form.

Nina Gilbert adds:

However, it is unclear whether the bill will make it to a vote this afternoon. The National Religious Party said last night that its demand to rescind the cuts in senior citizen benefits had not been met and therefore it would not support the bill today.

The NRP's support was instrumental in passing the first reading of the 1999 state budget a month ago.

Gesher's failure to join the coalition has also resulted in reducing the chances of the bill passing.

Leaders of the coalition parties met yesterday with Neeman to discuss support for the bill. Neeman agreed to ensure 10,000 special education hours, and announced that he would put the bill to a vote again.

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With no rain in sight

Greens call for water rationing

By DAVID RUDGE

Concern is growing over the country's water resources, amid calls by conservationists for a state of emergency to be declared because of the ongoing lack of rain.

The Meteorological Service reported yesterday that there are still no signs of heavy rain on the horizon, despite the prospect of light showers mainly in the North late tomorrow and Wednesday.

Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan has called a meeting of water experts this week to discuss the crisis.

Yosef Tamir, chairman of Life and Environment, the umbrella organization for 37 "green" movements throughout the country, said a start should be made immediately to reduce water consumption by at least 10 percent.

Tamir said his organization had formulated a program for the water authority, in case of emergency, and this would be submitted at a meeting next week of all the member associations.

He stressed that the present situation only serves to underline the delicate state of the country's water resources, and the urgent need to take steps now for the future.

Tamir maintained that a 10 percent reduction in consumption could be achieved fairly quickly by replacing leaking water pipes in towns and cities throughout the country.

Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir said it is too early to talk of cutting water quotas to farmers or implementing any other measures to reduce consumption generally.

"It should be noted that we live in an area where the climate is semi-arid, and therefore we manage our water sources in the full knowledge of this; and in a way that ensures we are not taken by surprise in the event of a dry spell or dry cycle," said Ben-Meir.

"Water, however, is essential for the survival of human beings. It is also a strategic resource in which uncertainties are involved. For these reasons I have already recommended to the infrastructure minister to start planning and building the first desalination project," he continued.

"The reason we need additional water is because of the increase in the population in our region, both inside the country and surrounding it, and because we are dealing with uncertainties of all kinds."

"We also need more sewage treatment plants so recycled water can be used for irrigation, and to protect the environment from contamination while conserving our own limited fresh water resources."

The only way of introducing additional water into the region, however, is through desalination and this should be started now," Ben-Meir added.



Students mill around the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on their first day of classes yesterday after a seven-week strike. (Kevin Unger)

Back on campus, a bittersweet feeling

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The hiss of the espresso machine and the whir of the photocopier replaced the blare of the bullhorn across the nation's university campuses yesterday, as some 180,000 students came back to school.

It was as if the previously empty green lawns of the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus had suddenly sprouted knots of students, who sat chatting in the warm afternoon sun as they began the semester after an almost seven-week student strike.

The students seemed relieved to be back, and expressed mixed emotions about the strike that kept them away for so long.

"I'm sorry there was a strike to begin with," said Shlomit Shifit, a first-year mathematics student, as she reviewed her first day's notes under a tree. "It was undemocratic — there was never a vote to see if the students supported a strike. And once there was a strike, it's too bad that nothing came of it. I felt as if there were a few thugs controlling us, with no one asking us if we were interested in striking. It's our time, and money that we paid."

David Lewis, a second-year physics student originally from Ithaca, New York, reacquainted himself with his classmates after the long layoff and talked about how student schedules would change in light of the lost strike days.

"The strike wasn't really worthwhile," he said. "I don't think we gained what we could've gained. And I think the semester's going to be so pressured now compared to what it would have been, I don't

know if it was worth it."

Lewis said the real benefit from the strike was "a growing awareness among the students and others of the fact that there are students in need. I don't think I was so aware of it."

Wissam Abed Elal, a first year pharmacology student, said the strike "would have been worthwhile had it achieved its aims, but unfortunately, it did not." He blamed the failure on a government "that is tough and pays no attention. The students are weak and didn't have the power to fight the government. Even if there had been tens of thousands involved, no one in the government [would have cared] that the students were on strike."

Nonetheless, he said, "we had to do it, and if we made mistakes we have to learn from them and continue from within." Abed Elal, who said he works a few jobs to

support his studies, said it felt "good to start my studies, because I have to end them some day."

Despite the residue of frustration, there was definitely a festive air on campus. At the science building's photo copy stand, business was picking up after falling off almost 90 percent during the strike. "Things will get even better," said operator David Alexiosy. "They're still not into the real studying yet."

Outside Alexiosy's copy stand, students were once again eyeing ads for apartments and part time work on the bulletin board, and the cash register at the Akademion store was singing as students loaded up on school supplies.

As students peddled by on bicycles or headed for the National Library, Elinor Singer, a third year chemistry student, sat with two friends. "It would have been worthwhile if there had been

results," she said, "but there weren't any."

"The problem wasn't with our leaders, but the leaders higher up, the ones who wouldn't meet our demands. There may have been many mistakes in the struggle, but it seems that the lecturers always get what they want. We just didn't have the power. But I'm happy to return to my studies. I think it would've caused very serious damage had we not gone back to school now."

Perhaps happiest to have the students back was Lily Nachmana, who runs the coffee stand in the basement of the National Library, where sales were off more than 50% during the strike. As she handed a cup of steaming hot java to a student, Nachmana smiled and said it was great to have her regular clients back. Without them, she said, "it was very sad on campus."

Man who shot dead ex-lover dies in hospital

Yefim Rom, 57, who shot dead former girlfriend Natalie Goldenberg, 33, at Ben-Gurion Airport on Saturday night before turning the gun on himself, died of his wounds yesterday afternoon in Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

Neighbors from Rehov Einstein in Lod, where Goldenberg lived, told of a young woman who worked hard to support her 10-year-old son.

A new immigrant from the former Soviet Union, Goldenberg never complained to police of her boyfriend's violence. Nor did the social services have any idea of what was going on.

Nevertheless, the police had previously received three complaints against Rom from his ex-wife. None of them, however, ever

reached court and the files were closed due to lack of public interest.

Goldenberg's mother told how her daughter met Rom a year ago and soon became very close, despite the difference in age between them. She recently, however, decided to split up with him.

Her decision enraged Rom and he tried to convince her to change her mind. Family members said he began to pester her on the phone, although it is not clear whether he threatened her.

On Saturday night Rom requested to speak with her outside her office at VIP Travel at the airport. He waited until her shift ended and while walking with her to the parking lot shot her at close range before turning the gun on himself. (Iim)

Cabinet OKs student aid plan

The cabinet yesterday approved a plan to help university students increase their social involvement and establish a committee to consider a comprehensive reform of the higher education system.

According to a statement, the cabinet was told that during the student strike, government and student representatives reached an understanding that would give students time to study as well as time to volunteer, and thus influence the country's social and cultural image. After the understandings were reached, the students sought to make changes, but these were rejected by the government's representatives.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said there have never been negotiations in which the prime minister, finance minister, and education minister have spent so much time. He denied charges that the govern-

ment is indifferent, saying it is open to suggestions, but accused the students of trying to go back on what was agreed.

Meanwhile, the universities began outlining plans for making up classes missed during the strike. Tel Aviv University rector Nili Cohen said its students would study in two 12-week semesters, with classes ending on June 26 and some classes taking place during vacation time. She said university representatives would be available to hear about any specific problems students have related to the time they missed.

The Hebrew University also announced it had drawn up a revised calendar which restores lost class time by shortening vacations and extending the end of the school year. Aryeh Dean Cohen

Health Ministry enables health funds to cover AIDS

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza has officially recognized AIDS as "a serious disease." Although seemingly obvious, this formality was necessary so the health funds could get an extra share of health taxes collected by the National Insurance Institute

to cover the costs of treating members with AIDS.

Until now, only Gaucher's disease (a genetic disorder that weakens the bones and harms internal organs); thalassemia (a genetic blood disorder); hemophilia (a genetic condition in which the blood doesn't clot); and kidney failure requiring dial-



Yehoshua Matza (Ariel Jerusalem)

was for members with one of the four recognized "serious diseases." Now AIDS joins the list, helping the insurers to cover the major expense of the protease inhibitor "cocktail" of drugs that are taken daily by HIV carriers and AIDS patients, often dozens of pills a day; the insurers will get NIS 48,000 a year for each of them.

Most of the 100 or so living AIDS patients are members of Kupat Holim Clalit, as are the nearly 2,000 reported HIV carriers. Before the National Health Insurance Law went into effect, the smaller health funds were very reluctant to accept carriers or AIDS patients; there have even been reports of them trying to discourage AIDS patients and carriers from joining, or remaining, as members.

Matza, who during the past year included the anti-AIDS cocktail in the basket of health services to which relevant members are entitled, said that such patients now get the optimal care that modern medicine can offer. The ministry has no immediate plans to add any other conditions to the "serious disease" list.

The four health funds get allocations of health taxes on a capitation basis ("per head"), according to the number of people they insure. In addition, they get a bonus for members over the age of 65, because their medical costs are greater.

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The Israel Airports Authority



PUBLIC TENDER NO. C4030057 AIRSIDE SITEWORKS ELECTRICAL CONTRACT

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests Proposals from qualified Offerors meeting the below listed Pre-Conditions for the Construction of the Airside Siteworks Electrical for the Ben Gurion 2000 Project. The Work of this Contract generally includes the low voltage Electrical Construction Work exterior to the Airside Terminal. This includes, but is not limited to, the flood lights and taxiway lighting; signage in the hardstands, taxiways and the aprons; and the low voltage electrical work in the substations, the Shalom gates and the utility tunnel.

Preliminary Mandatory Requirements: This list summarizes the Pre-Conditions for an Offeror's Proposal to be considered by the IAA. Only the complete language of the Pre-Conditions as stated in the RFP is binding. This text may be obtained by written request, submitted on company letterhead, to the PMF facsimile number stated below.

- Offeror shall be registered under Classification of Group A, Branch 160, Type 5 (unlimited) under the State of Israel registration of Contractors for Construction Works (Classification of registered Contractors) 1988. (Foreign Offerors must comply with the requirements set forth in Appendix A, Part II of the RFP).
- Offeror's minimum annual work in place for Electrical Construction Work in each of the last three (3) years was not less than the equivalent of Three Million U.S. Dollars (\$3 Million).
- Offeror's records must indicate, for each of the last three (3) years, the cost paid directly for labor for at least forty (40) persons (annual average).
- Offeror has a minimum of five (5) years of electrical construction experience and
 - Has constructed and completed at least three (3) low voltage electrical construction/system projects of at least 2,000 A/400V, each within the last five (5) years.
 - Has completed a minimum of two (2) runway or taxiway lighting and signage projects, and has installed not less than 100 runway or taxiway light fixtures within the last five (5) years.
- Offeror shall meet the staffing and personnel experience requirements specified in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall meet the registration requirements for a legal entity stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall meet the VAT and Israeli Tax Authorities' registration requirements stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall provide an unconditional and irrevocable Bank Guarantee in the amount of One Million New Israeli Shekels (1,000,000 NIS), valid for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the Proposal Submission Date, as specified in the RFP, Exhibit E.
- Joint Ventures are allowed to participate in the Tender in accordance with the conditions stated in the RFP, Part B, Section 2 and Exhibit A.
- Offeror, if a foreign entity, shall sign the Commercial Cooperation Undertaking Attached to the Tender Documents.

Additional Preliminary Requirements:

Participation in the Tender Process is subject to the Offeror's satisfying all Preliminary requirements as detailed in the Mandatory Tender Regulations (1993), Clause 6 (a), (1), (2) and (3).

Proposal Documents: Tender Documents may be purchased until Proposal Submission Date for the non-refundable amount of Thirteen Thousand New Israeli Shekels (13,000 NIS), including VAT.

Tender Documents are available from the Project Management Firm (PMF) Project Office located at Ben Gurion International Airport, starting 3 December, 1998 between the hours of 08:00 and 12:00, business days (Sunday through Thursday). Interested Offerors must contact the PMF Contracts Administrator, Mr. Amnon Yehelpe at telephone number: 972-3-977-4464 (Fax number 972-3-971-2956) a minimum of forty eight (48) hours in advance to arrange Site access. Interested parties may preview the Tender Documents prior to their purchase.

All qualifying Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes/packages not later than 10:00 hours local time on or before 19 January 1999 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority, Main Office, 2nd Floor, Room 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel.

A Pre-Proposal conference will be held at the Ben Gurion 2000 Project site Offices on December 17, 1998 at 13:00 to clarify provisions in the RFP documents, to summarize and present the Project and to respond to written questions posed by Offerors. Offerors are strongly encouraged to attend, but participation is not mandatory. Site access must be arranged in advance as stated in the RFP.

The IAA is not bound to accept the lowest Proposal or any Proposal whatsoever.

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סוכן מן הארץ

US envoy arrives in Seoul as nuclear pact threatened

SEOUL (Reuters) — A US envoy was to arrive here yesterday to discuss North Korean policy issues, as a news report said a nuclear pact with Pyongyang could be in danger.

The New York Times reported yesterday that senior US officials were threatening to end a nuclear framework agreement with North Korea if Pyongyang does not allow inspections of a suspicious underground construction site.

It said intelligence information on the site was "very convincing" and US officials planned to tell North Koreans at negotiations later this month the agreement would collapse unless they were given access to inspect the site.

In the 1994 pact, known as the Agreed Framework, North Korea promised to freeze its nuclear weapons program in exchange for billions of dollars of energy assistance, including two light-water nuclear reactors.

North Korean officials described the threat to end the agreement as nearly an act of war, the Times said.

The American envoy, former defense secretary William Perry, was not expected to perform any official functions after his scheduled arrival late yesterday by military flight, a US military spokesman said.

North Korea policy coordinator Perry will meet with top South Korean officials, including President Kim Dae-jung, during his three-day stay in Seoul to collect views on Washington's stance towards the North, a US embassy statement said.

Perry is to fly to Tokyo tomorrow and to Beijing the next day. He will meet top security and defense officials and academic experts on North Korea in all three cities, the statement said.

Perry's visit comes at a time when Washington's attempts to prompt the Stalinist North to unveil a suspected nuclear program have showed little progress.

Last month, US envoy Charles Karlman visited North Korea but failed to persuade Pyongyang to allow inspection of the site.

Libya rules out Lockerbie deal by anniversary

TRIPOLI (Reuters) — Libya poured cold water over Western hopes yesterday for a handover of the Lockerbie suspects before the 10th anniversary of the bombing of an American airliner over Scotland on December 21, 1988.

"The Lockerbie problem is an invented and complicated one and it is not logical and reasonable to solve it under the pressure of what is called the 10th anniversary of the Pan Am accident," wrote the diplomatic editor of the official news agency JANA.

The editor, whose comments generally reflect the views of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, played down the significance of Saturday's meeting between Gaddafi and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

"Kofi Annan did not hold talks with the brother leader of the revolution. He merely went to see him where he was in the Libyan desert, to salute him and greet him on his recovery," he said.

The US and Britain are pressing for the surrender of two alleged Libyan intelligence agents accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish village of Lockerbie, killing 270 people.

They have offered to hold the trial on neutral ground in the Netherlands and are keen to see the two men turned over before the December 21 anniversary.

A Libyan official said earlier yesterday that he expected a lengthy parliamentary debate on the possible handover of the two suspects following Annan's intervention in the dispute.

"Normally a debate in the General People's Congress takes three to 10 days, depending on what foreign or domestic issues are on the agenda," said the official. "Sometimes it takes 10 days of debate and when they finish we take a final decision."

Even after congress approval, any surrender of the two men would require unspecified "arrangements," he said.

The congress is due to start a five-day session tomorrow. Annan said after meeting Gaddafi on Saturday that he hoped for "good news" soon, but said Libya's complex decision-making process meant a final agreement needed more time.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook voiced some optimism about what Annan had told him of his trip to Libya. "I think I am very encouraged by what he tells me. Neither of us is going to predict what Col. Gaddafi

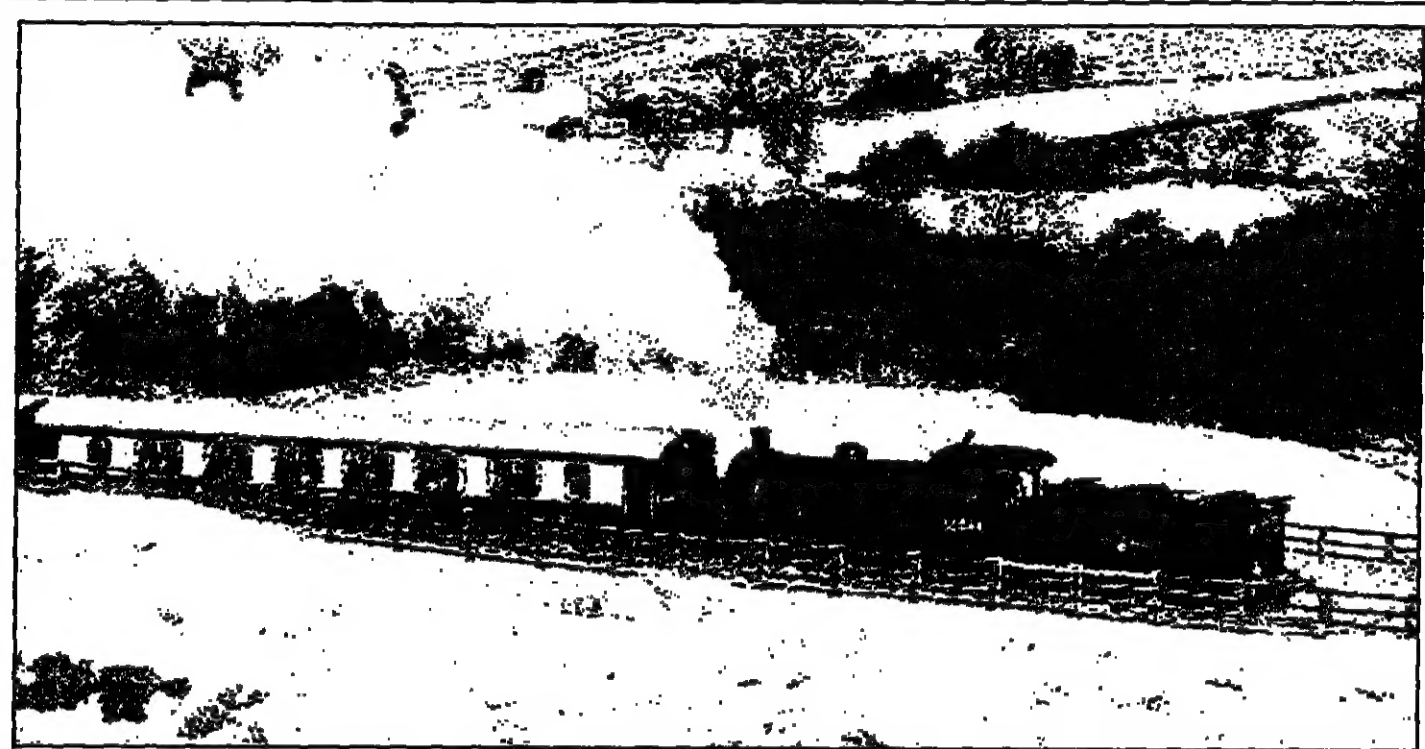
is going to do, but I think you can sum up our mood as one of qualified optimism," Cook told BBC television yesterday.

The US said it was disappointed at the failure to secure a clear-cut agreement on the handover of the two Libyans, Abdel Basset Ali Mohammed Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah.

Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustapha Montasser said there would be "positive results very soon."

Al-Zahf al-Akhdar, a government newspaper, said the US wanted to impose its will on Libya.

"The issue here is not Lockerbie, but one of imposing on free countries. America's main interest is not the Pan Am victims and their families but Libya escaping from its control."



Winter comes to Britain

A steam-powered train crosses the snow-covered North Yorkshire Moors at Gouthland in northern England yesterday, after the season's first heavy snowfall.

Albert Gore Sr. dies

CARTHAGE, Tenn. (Reuters) — Albert Gore Sr., father of Vice President Al Gore, who represented Tennessee in the US House and Senate for 32 years, died on Saturday at his home in Carthage. He was 90. A spokesman for the vice president said Gore Sr. died "peacefully of natural causes." The younger Gore and his wife, Tipper, were at his bedside.

"The country has lost a great patriot, a great public servant, a man who was truly a role model for young people like me in the South in the 1960s," President Bill Clinton said.

Turkish Cypriots go to polls to elect parliament

NICOSIA (AP) — A row between President Rauf Denktash and an opposition center-left party over the island's membership in the European Union cast a shadow on Turkish Cypriot parliamentary elections yesterday. More than 85 percent of 121,000 eligible voters were expected to turn up at voting stations to elect 50 lawmakers from among 352 candidates fielded by seven political parties.

Denktash strongly opposes Cyprus's membership in the EU, saying this would amount to the island's integration with EU-member Greece. Opinion polls showed that Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu's center-right party would come out with the largest number of seats.

Hoffa says he will be next Teamsters chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — James P. Hoffa claimed victory yesterday in the election to lead the Teamsters and promised to bring a new militancy to the union once headed by his father.

The 57-year-old Detroit labor lawyer said on NBC's *Meet the Press* that he's already at work trying to restore to the Teamsters — a 1.4 million-member union — the influence it once had in the American labor movement. Hoffa's election was assured Saturday when opponent Tom Leedom conceded defeat.

Boy killed by escaped jaguars

PARIS (AP) — One of two jaguars that escaped from their cage in a zoo in western France bit and mauled a 4-year-old boy to death, then attacked his father as he desperately tried to fight off the animal, officials said yesterday.

Police in the small town of Doue-la-Fontaine killed one of the two 100-kg female jaguars and captured the other and put it to sleep yesterday morning, authorities said. The Zoo Doue was immediately shut down pending an investigation.

"The child didn't pass through any security zone," state prosecutor Yves Gambert told France Info radio. The jaguar went after the boy "the moment it came out of a small tunnel." Repeatedly bitten in the head, the boy died of his wounds and his father was hospitalized in serious condition with mostly head wounds he suffered while battling the jaguar.

Pope: People feel like kids again on Christmas

ROME (AP) — Christmas makes old people feel like children, said Pope John Paul II, who yesterday told youngsters how he stays fresh in spirit. Speaking to more than 100 cheering children at a parish in an upper class Rome neighborhood, John Paul said: "I know why you're happy. It's because Christmas is coming."

Later, to a group of adults, the 78-year-old pontiff said Christmas is joyful for old people, too, because they feel "like children again." The ailing pope, who has trouble walking and often tires during public appearances, often seems invigorated by meetings with young people.

Mandela rejects amnesty for apartheid crimes

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South African President Nelson Mandela yesterday rejected a general amnesty for apartheid-era crimes, clearing the way for trials of human rights violators who ignored the country's Truth Commission.

"There is no question, as far as I am concerned, of a general amnesty and I will resist that with every power that I have. We cannot have that," Mandela said in an interview published in the *Sunday Independent* newspaper.

Mandela said debate on a blanket amnesty was "futile," adding that the government had already considered the idea and dismissed it.

The idea of a blanket amnesty has

been hotly debated in South Africa since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its final report to Mandela in early November.

The TRC recommended in a 3,500-page chronicle of its probe into apartheid atrocities that human rights abusers from both sides of the struggle be prosecuted unless they applied for amnesty.

The TRC has the power to grant amnesty from prosecution to offenders who tell the commission the whole truth about the details of their crimes.

The South African prosecutor charged with bringing the country's apartheid-era offenders to justice

has said criminal trials could take another six years.

Jan D'Oliviera, the deputy director of national prosecutions, said last month that his office has prepared several cases against generals of the former apartheid security forces and was about half-way through an investigation of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the former wife of the South African president.

Madikizela-Mandela was accused of involvement in murders and abductions in the late 1980s in Soweto township, and she was later convicted of kidnapping. Her six-year jail term was reduced to a fine on appeal.

By CLARE MULLIS

GENEVA (AP) — Amid pomp and pageantry, world leaders are marking the 50th anniversary this week of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But there is only limited room for celebration.

Adopted in the aftermath of World War II, the declaration was intended to prevent a repetition of the horrors of the Holocaust and other atrocities.

Beginning with the pronouncement that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," the United Nations document set out to cover the range of human existence.

It has become at once the most quoted and most ignored international document of modern times.

Since its inauguration on December 10, 1948, millions of people have been denied their most basic right — that of life — as a result of massacres such as those in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Bosnia. In many other countries, inhabitants can only dream of basic civil liberties.

And the world is far from fulfilling the declaration's pronouncements on economic rights. "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family," says Article 25.

According to UN figures, 1.5 billion people must get by on less than \$1 a day. In South Asia, half of all children under 5 are malnourished. Only a third of the people in sub-Saharan Africa are likely to live past 40.

"The problem for the common people is that they don't understand their rights," said Sri Bintang Pamungkas, a former political prisoner in Indonesia.

The declaration's 30 articles are short, between one and four sentences each. They proclaim the right to life and freedom from slavery and torture. They also spell out equality in marriage and divorce, freedom of religion and the right to education.

In an effort to raise awareness of the declaration, human rights groups have spent the anniversary year staging street plays, pop concerts and school competitions to pass along its message.

Official observances culminate this week in ceremonies tomorrow in Paris and Thursday in New York with world leaders like French President Jacques Chirac and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

There is consensus among activists that despite blatant violations of the declaration's principles, there has been progress. "Even if it's not implemented, it's the point of reference for gov-

ernments and people around the world," said Isabelle Scherer of Amnesty International.

Most advocates cited Britain's arrest and possible extradition of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet to Spain on charges of genocide and torture as evidence of a changing international mood.

"Pinochet's arrest makes a very nice 50th anniversary present," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Peter Thomas Burns, chairman of the UN committee on torture, said: "Twenty years ago, dictators, when deposed, could look forward to a happy, comfortable retirement."

International human rights law has caught up with them," UN organizations set up to monitor compliance with the declaration and related treaties meet fre-

quently in Geneva. Although the bodies have little power other than to cajole or rebuke, rights advocates say their pressure makes a difference.

Many Asian nations have long argued that human rights are a purely internal matter, but there are signs of changing attitudes. Both Indonesia and the Philippines criticized Malaysia's government this year over the detention of a former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim.

Yet, while China recently signed a UN treaty on civil and political rights and maintains it respects the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it still punishes anyone who doesn't toe the official line.

Many Chinese echo the government's position that national prosperity takes precedence over individual rights.

Former conservative congressman Huffington declares he's gay

WASHINGTON — Michael Huffington, the man who spent \$28 million on a failed Senate candidacy in California, says now that he's glad he lost because it allowed him to reveal a long-held personal secret: he's gay.

"I know now that my sexuality is part of who I am," Huffington is quoted as saying in an article by David Brock, a longtime friend, in the January issue of *Esquire*. He added, "I've been through a long process of finding out the truth about myself."

Huffington, 51, was divorced last year from columnist and socialite Arianna Huffington. The article says he told his fiancée of his past homosexual activity before they were married.

There is no small irony in the decision by the former Republican congressman, a staunch conservative, to tell his story to Brock.

Brock, a fellow conservative, struggled with the decision to disclose his own homosexuality in a 1994 interview with *The Washington Post*.

Brock is best known for the "Troopergate" article about President Bill Clinton's sex life in Arkansas, for which he has since apologized.

According to the *Esquire* piece, Huffington says he began dating men in the 1970s while working at his family oil company in Houston, and became "guilt-ridden and depressed" over the relationships. Huffington also contin-

ued to date women, and at one point he made a private vow to stop sleeping with men.

The Huffingtons were married in 1986. Six years later, in what was the most expensive House race in history, Michael Huffington spent \$5.4 million to win his California seat.

Huffington was one of the few Republicans to support an end to the ban on gays in the military, but said at the time that he was not voting to "promote the gay lifestyle."

One other revelation in the article: Huffington says he is not sure if he is a Republican anymore, and that he will never run for political office again.

(The Washington Post)

Little cause to celebrate at human rights declaration

By CLARE MULLIS

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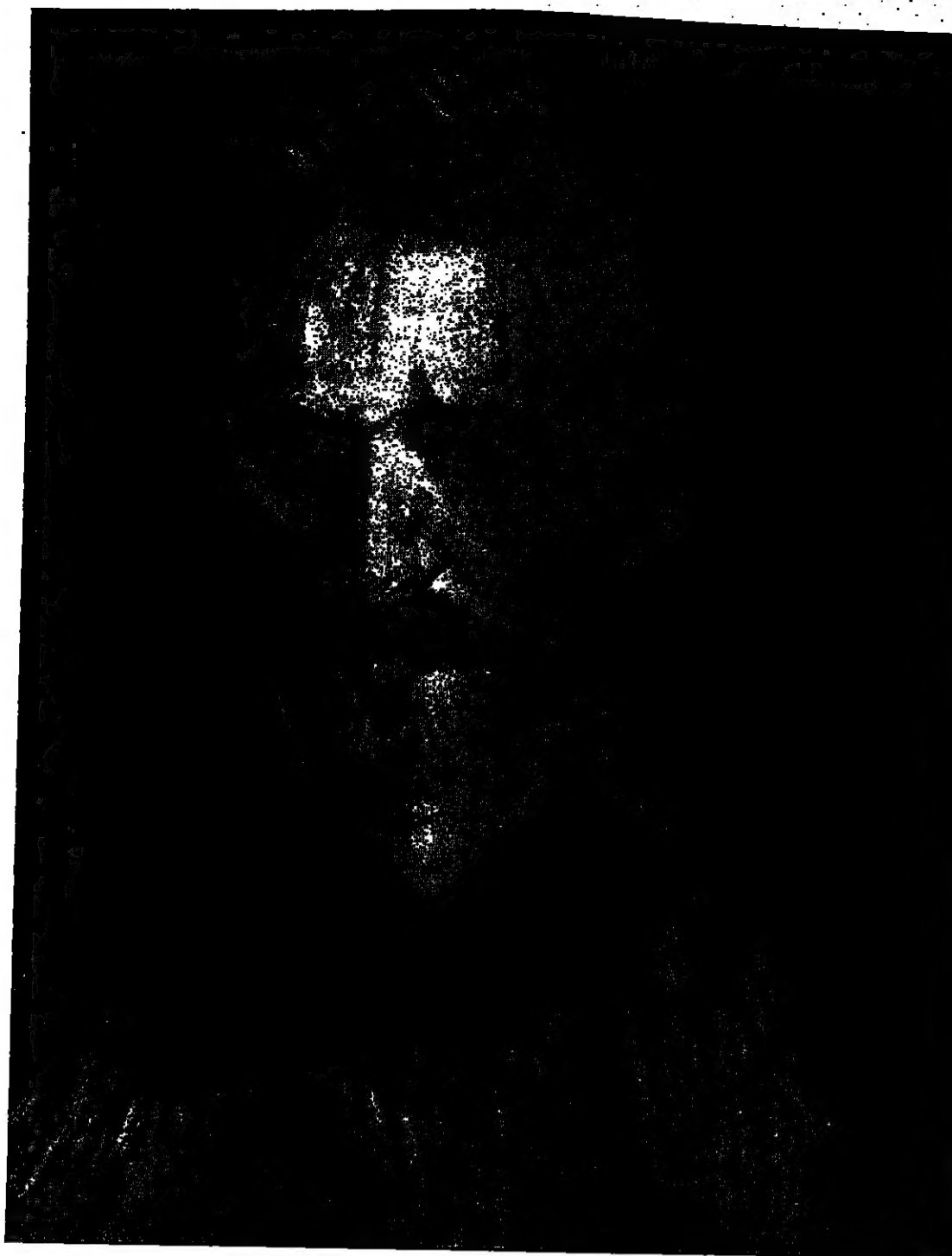
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So what ailed Vincent Van Gogh?



Van Gogh: Self-portrait in a green peasant's smock.

(Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam)

Was he mad, or simply a hard-working guy with an enzyme deficiency? Over a century after his suicide the painter continues to fascinate scientists and physicians. Megan Rosenfeld reports.

Wilfred Niels Arnold, a biochemist at the University of Missouri medical school, knows what ailed Vincent van Gogh.

After examining every medical reference – from constipation to melancholy – in the artist's hundreds of letters, after sorting and charting them and doing chemical experiments on the livers of chicken embryos, Arnold is sure he has the answer: a liver condition called acute intermittent porphyria, complicated by absinthe abuse.

Kay Redfield Jamison, a writer and professor of psychiatry, is equally sure that Arnold is full of hogwash, or perhaps chicken livers. She, too, has analyzed van Gogh's letters and life story, and her conclusion is also firm: manic depression. Possibly complicated by absinthe abuse.

Some 108 years after his suicide, van Gogh remains a source of fascination for doctors of all kinds. Ophthalmologists, physicians, chemists, bio-behaviorists, cultural historians and, of course, psychiatrists have for at least 70 years



Van Gogh in 1872, aged 19.

churned out thousands of pages of post-mortem analysis.

Tossing around phrases like "demythologizing hermeneutic" and "hyperacusis," they debate with all the passion allowed in medical journals – as though the wretched Dutchman could be helped by their conclusions.

"One might think that appropri-

ate medication [as we know it today] and continuing psychotherapeutic engagement could have changed the course of art history," wrote Dr. William W. Meissner in the *Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic* in 1994.

In the end, the diagnosticians split predictably between those who, like Arnold, see the painter's root problem in a biological condition, and those who subscribe to a psychological cause. Both acknowledge genetic and environmental influences, including malnutrition and paint chemicals.

The abundance of detailed, fairly well-written letters from the patient fuels much of the diagnosis parlor game. The three volumes of van Gogh's letters were inherited by Theo van Gogh's wife, Johanna van Gogh Bongers. Editions of the letters have been available for seven decades.

But there is more to his appeal than the availability of data.

"Van Gogh is someone who is approachable. I think," said Jamison, author of *Touched With Fire: Manic Depressive Illness and*

the *Artistic Temperament* and a manic-depressive herself. "There is always a fascination with a life, with the human story."

A SAD human story, in this case, in which the hero repeatedly falls in love with women who can't stand him, drives his relatives crazy, obsesses on religion and self-denial, proves himself incapable of managing the money given him or of supporting himself, can't settle down, drinks too much and eats too little, has several nervous breakdowns – and paints brilliant canvases loved by millions only after his death.

The letters offer a unique window onto both his suffering and the humdrum details of his life, but – like the Bible – they can mean different things to different people. There are about a dozen seriously considered diagnoses, including epilepsy, alcoholism, sunstroke, syphilis and schizophrenia.

Review of 796 personal letters to family and friends written between 1884 and his suicide in 1890 reveals a man constantly in control of his reason and suffering from severe repeated attacks of disabling vertigo, not a seizure disorder, claimed a group writing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 1990.

Van Gogh's "bizarre behavior suggests that his tinnitus (ringing in the ears) had become intolerable, and that he felt he might alleviate the 'auditory hallucinations' by eliminating their source. Some patients with Meniere's disease experience such overwhelming tinnitus that they would 'cut off their ear' or 'poke a hole in it with an ice pick' to try to relieve it."

This diagnosis of Meniere's disease was roundly dismissed in a subsequent issue of *JAMA*, and the authors were said to have misinterpreted and misquoted the letters.

The facts are sometimes left in the dust. Van Gogh cut off part of his ear, not the whole ear. "The incision was diagonal; it began posteriorly toward the top of the ear and cut anteriorly through the tragus (the prominence in front of the external opening)," wrote Albert J. Lubin in *Stranger on the Earth: A Psychological Biography of Vincent Van Gogh*.

The whole ear episode has been catnip to analysts, producing more than a dozen theories.

A newspaper near Arles, where the incident occurred, recorded it thus on December 30, 1888:

"Last Sunday night at half-past

eleven, a painter named Vincent van Gogh, a native of Holland, appeared at the maison de tolerance... asked for a girl named Rachel, and handed her his ear with these words: 'Keep this object carefully.'"

Then he disappeared. The police, informed of these happenings, which could be attributed only to an unfortunate maniac, looked the next morning for this individual, whom they found in his bed with barely a sign of life."

One school points out the similarity between the Dutch words for ear (*lel*) and penis (*lul*), suggesting the act was a symbolic castration. Another notes that in the biblical Garden of Gethsemane, Simon Peter cut off the ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest who had come to seize Christ, a scene van Gogh had tried to paint the previous summer.

Dr. Harry S. Abram, writing in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* in 1986, suggested "polysurgical addiction," a "compulsion to submit to surgical operations."

Jacques Schnier, a professor of art and psychiatry, said giving the ear to a prostitute was van Gogh's way of fulfilling an unconscious wish to possess his mother following an imagined assault upon a father substitute.

(That was the painter Paul Gauguin, at whom van Gogh had tossed a glass of absinthe. Gauguin later claimed that van Gogh came at him with a razor, but not many people believed him.)

Another analyst saw a connection to the bullfights common in Arles, where the winning matador is given an ear of the bull as a reward, and then offers it to a favored female spectator. Yet another saw it as an act of Christian sacrifice, his "living flesh given to the most fallen of human beings."

Van Gogh himself said he had no memory of why he mutilated himself, suggesting an "artist's fit."

Nor did he know why he took the piece of ear to the prostitute Rachel, a teenager he had seen regularly. After he recovered from his ear slashing she was kind to him, he wrote later.

THE rest of the town was not so nice. Eighty people signed a petition demanding that van Gogh be institutionalized again, so he ended up back in the late-19th-century version of a padded cell, "under lock and key and with keepers,

without any guilt being proved or even open to proof," he wrote.

That sort of thing could make you paranoid.

Soon he was in a sanitarium run by a fat former eye doctor, Dr. Gachet, in St. Remy, housed in an old monastery. Gachet was also an artist. Since there were only a dozen patients in the 30 rooms, van Gogh was allowed a studio in which to paint. (He did 150 oils, 10 watercolors and 100 drawings while in this sanitarium, including *Dr. Gachet, Pieta, Wheatfield With a Reaper* and *Almond Blossom*.)

His letters also reflect his concern about the sanitarium's bean-heavy diet, which evidently caused the other patients to be a gassy lot. As a result, van Gogh refused to eat anything but bread and soup.

The doctor there diagnosed "acute mania" and epilepsy. The latter description seems to have been based largely on van Gogh's suggestion that there were epileptics in his mother's family.

It remains a controversial, if largely discredited, diagnosis. Another possibility is that absinthe provoked the artist's convulsions. The drink contains wormwood, which caused convulsions in dogs in an experiment that prompted governments to ban the drink early this century.

BUT let's get back to Arnold's diagnosis of acute intermittent porphyria (AIP) vs. Jamison's support of manic depression.

Arnold, author of *Vincent van Gogh: Chemicals, Crises, and Creativity*, said AIP is essentially an inherited liver enzyme deficiency. It is known to the public as the ailment of King George III (who was thought to be mad) and because it turns urine the color of red wine after exposure to air.

The symptoms include abdominal pain, bladder dysfunction, gastrointestinal problems, irritability, delirium, seizures and paralysis. It can be controlled with diet, or exacerbated by certain drugs and chemicals.

Van Gogh's diet was terrible, Arnold says, and his ingestion of noxious chemicals (paint, turpentine, tobacco, absinthe) well documented. An attack can be mistaken for a nervous breakdown.

Adding to Arnold's conviction is what he believes to be evidence that other members of the van Gogh family had the disease, especially brother Theo. He died six months after Vincent in the Medical Institute for the Insane in

Utrecht, diagnosed with "dementia paralytica."

A sister, Wilhelmina, lived most of her life in an asylum, and their youngest brother, Cor, died in South Africa during the Boer War; one contemporary record says he committed suicide.

Vincent's suicide was the result of his years of pain and despair at the prospect of more attacks, and his ear mutilation came during some kind of AIP-induced seizure or hallucination, Arnold suggests.

"There isn't anything that can't be explained by AIP," said Arnold. "We have won the day – or at least urged serious scholars to consider it."

FIDDLESTICKS, says Jamison. AIP is a very rare disease, while manic depression is very common – why settle on the obscure when the symptoms of bipolar disease are so obvious?

Among these she counts van Gogh's irritability even as a child, the cyclic pattern of his crises, his insomnia, religious obsession, volatile temper, bursts of productivity and "very specific attacks of rage and perturbation," combined with periods of great lucidity. She attributes his stomach problems and convulsions to drinking ("self-medicating") and bad diet, and possibly a seizure disorder. Also, she says, AIP is not usually associated with suicide.

Furthermore, there is no record of van Gogh's urine turning red or any other color. Arnold explains this by noting he spent a lot of time outdoors painting or living in houses with crude bathroom facilities.

"In 10 years we'll be able to know something from the DNA," Jamison said. "Although I have a problem with digging up people's graves."

She thinks a diagnosis of manic depression still carries a stigma, and that's why some people are reluctant to settle on it.

Arnold, on the other hand, thinks the art world does not want to abandon the romantic notion of madness that has become attached to van Gogh, and accept instead that he was simply a hard-working guy with an enzyme deficiency.

There is one point on which Arnold and Jamison agree: Van Gogh was not schizophrenic, as some early analysts maintained.

"People who say they can see schizophrenia in the paintings are just crazy," Arnold said.

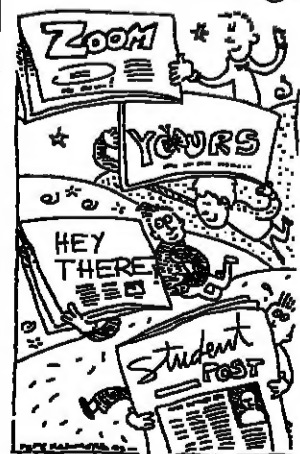
(The Washington Post)

Van Gogh's painting of the sanitarium in Saint-Remy: He had a studio there, and did 150 oils, 10 watercolors and 100 drawings.

(The Armand Hammer Foundation)

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Making love, not war

Movie Review

By Adina Hoffman

Israeli director Eyal Halfon's *Palestine Circus* has several things to recommend it, including a sinuously graceful lion as one of its stars, the wonderful, skeptical-looking Russian-

PALESTINE CIRCUS

Written and directed by Eyal Halfon. Hebrew title: *Kirkas Palestina*. 90 minutes. English, Hebrew, Arabic and Russian dialogue. Hebrew and English subtitles. Parental guidance suggested. With Yoram Hattab, Yevgenia Dudina, Amos Lavi, Bassam Zuamut, Vladimir Friedman.

born actress Yevgenia Dudina as another (she plays Mariana, the jungle cat's trainer) and a basic, commendable Make Love Not War message.

There is, too, a certain built-in sweetness and naivete to the movie's big top setting - the story centers on the Russian circus that has been imported by a Palestinian businessman (Bassam Zuamut, also very likable) to entertain the residents of a West Bank village - and the filmmakers clearly mean well. They long for a time when all the people of the region might sit together under one brightly lit tent, eat cotton candy and cheer the acrobats, laugh at the clowns.

The problem, I'm afraid, is that *Palestine Circus* just isn't much of a film. Halfon's script (which for some reason won the Israeli Oscar this year, as did the movie itself) lacks momentum and suffers from a familiar local tendency to turn everyone, and every situation, into a caricature. Most of the energy that has gone into making this picture appear to be aimed at driving home a fairly obvious, political point, rather than refining the plot, dialogue, characterizations, edit-



The well-meaning Bleiberg (Yoram Hattab) stars in a chaotic, would-be show-stopping musical interlude.

ing. And while one may agree wholeheartedly with the movie's ideological thrust and find some satisfaction in the way that Halfon has assembled his multilingual/multicultural cast - Israelis, Palestinians and Russians all work together here - one wishes the director had found a better way to use these various talented people.

As it is, the movie evolves as a rough typology with Fellini-esque overtones: in addition to the knowing, Russian woman of the world and the apolitical, money-minded Palestinian promoter, the movie bandies about a whole laundry list of stock-types, including a pompous, self-absorbed army colonel (Amos Lavi); a crooked Israeli stolen-car salesman; a hysterical settler, pointedly named Margalit; a tough though kind Palestinian housewife; a boozy Russian impresario; some

lusty Russian ladies; a cute, mischievous kid; and the film's star, Bleiberg (Yoram Hattab), a bumbling, good-hearted soldier who volunteers to try and catch the lion when it escapes on opening night.

The central metaphor itself - the Middle East as a circus - is of course also a stereotype of rather glaring sorts, and in this context, even the lion's escape seems meant to be symbolic. (This dramatic cage-break takes place after a series of bizarre, *Born Free*-style fantasy sequences of wild cuts frolicking in the great outdoors, presumably seen from the animal's point of view.) The lion wants to live in freedom, as all the citizens of the area do and should be allowed to, etc. Again, even if one agrees with this agreeable sentiment, Halfon's method of making himself understood comes across as crude and literal-minded.

Throughout most of the film, Bleiberg tools around the lovely, olive-tree flecked landscape with Mariana at his side, looking for the lion. Not much happens. Other people also look for the lion, and no one can find him.

The pompous colonel starts to get annoyed and issues orders to shoot the beast on sight, at which point the picture descends into the requisite, illogical, frenzied-violence sequence (most politically inclined Israeli films include a similar outburst): the army shoots, the settlers shoot, the Palestinians shoot... meanwhile no one has laid eyes on the elusive feline target.

Obviously, Halfon means this to be a darkly satirical send-up of the bellicose attitudes that rule on all sides of the conflict here. But since complete rhythmic, emotional and photographic control are needed to pull off such over-the-top stylization - and since

control is exactly what's missing from Halfon's work - the scene backfires badly and simply feels amateurish, as if the director, not the characters, were trigger-happy.

Similar chaos reigns during an embarrassing would-be show-stopping musical interlude later on, as the entire cast bursts into off-key song, and all remaining traces of narrative dignity vanish into thin air.

Palestine Circus has its moments, but it never comes together as a movie. Viewers interested in Israeli cinema would be advised to go see another recently released local production instead - Amos Gitai's more ambitious and accomplished *Day after Day*. Alas, the point is moot. That film lasted exactly one week at the Jerusalem and Haifa theaters where it was showing, and two in Tel Aviv.

The human cost of our presence in Lebanon

By BARRY DAVIS

In view of the current debate sparked by the recent spate of fatalities in Lebanon, Channel 1's documentary about soldiers in action beyond our northern border is very timely.

"Operational Cost" (tomorrow night at 10:10) is a no-frills account of at least a bit of what is happening on the other side of the somewhat inappropriately named Good Fence at Metula. With sentiments put firmly on hold, the documentary narrator quickly puts us in the picture as we accompany a truckload of paratroopers into the security zone in south Lebanon. "It is a small victory when a convoy reaches its objective safely," the narrator states dryly.

Meanwhile, the soldiers themselves - how young they all are! - seem to be having a reasonably good time. But, of course, this is

their first tour of duty north of the border and they can't possibly know what to expect, can they?

The soldiers almost look like a bunch of school kids out on a nature trek as they daub their faces with black paint to setting off for their first altercation with the enemy. Mind you, the uniform and the size of their backpacks are a bit of a giveaway.

The account of the unit's physical and psychological preparations is intermittently punctuated by an interview with a former soldier who has already been there - and experienced the worst possible scenario, which he relates almost without a trace of emotion. This former soldier suffered injuries in a confrontation with Hizbullah guerrillas that left three members of his unit dead.

Despite the narrator's attempts at verbal dramatization, the documentary's subject matter is presented in a dry, almost matter-of-

fact manner. We see teenagers, fresh out of high school, about to be propelled into manhood as they tramp through mud and arid expanses of the desert in the concluding march of their basic training. From here on in, it's for real.

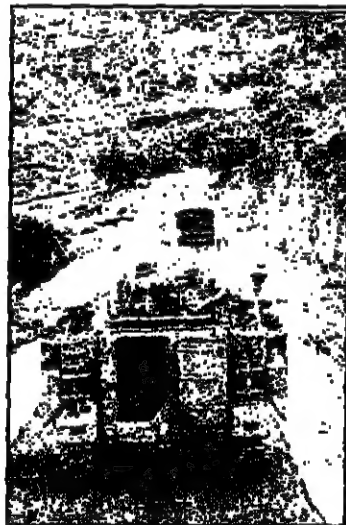
While the subject matter of "Operational Cost" may be familiar to many viewers, the media-scoop lynchpin of the whole exercise is provided in some startling monochrome thermal camera footage of an altercation between IDF soldiers and Hizbullah guerrillas. As we follow the progress of the two groups of little black dots, the whole scenario seems more like an innocent computer game, played in the comfort of some teenager's bedroom, than a real battle in which people actually get killed. The comments of the soldiers observing the event are similarly dry and unemotional as if they, too, were watching

some Nintendo figures about to zap one another with 500 kilobytes of computerized graphic ammunition.

Eventually, a few cracks begin to appear in the documentary's veneer. One soldier says that after being exposed to danger over a protracted period, some of his colleagues become emotionally apathetic and desensitized. When the interviewer ventures that "it doesn't sound normal," the soldier retorts with a wry smile: "Do you think the situation there is normal?"

As we accompany another unit about to cross into Lebanon, one soldier jokes that some of his colleagues like to have their picture taken before leaving Israel: "so they don't use a seventh-grade photograph" in the newspapers if they fall in battle.

The narrator leaves us with the chilling thought that, statistically, there are two IDF casualties a



The IDF in the security zone

month in Lebanon. "The problem with statistics," he intones, "is that they don't have names."

NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Reviving 'Madama Butterfly'

Director Christopher Alden lifted Puccini's heart-wrenching *Madama Butterfly* onto a great table for his first production (1995) at the New Israeli Opera. Now Alden and the table are back for the revival - with Russian soprano Natalia Derzho as the luckless Butterfly and Mexican tenor Rafael Rojas as the heartless Pinkerton. The first of 10 performances is at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on December 24.

Student movies compete for prize

Thirty documentary and short feature films will compete for \$13,500 in prizes in the 1998 Mograbi Graduating Student Film Competition. The awards range from \$1,000 for best cinematography or screenplay to \$3,000 for best picture. The films are the final projects of the graduating class of the Tel Aviv University Film School. Some of the films, such as *The Red Queen*, a short film that tells the story of a failed suitor by Ran Tal, and *Blue Star* by Gur Bentz, have already been screened on local TV. They and the rest will be shown to the public from December 9-14 at Fastlicht Hall on the TAU campus. The awards ceremony will be on December 16 at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque.

Golden Feather awards live on prime time

Channel 2 will broadcast the ACUM 1998 Golden Feather awards ceremony live on January 27. More than NIS 305,000 will go to 21 winners in categories ranging from Life Achievement Golden Feathers to Best Singer, Best Song, Best Serious Composition, Best Novel and so forth. The major categories are light music - including pop - serious music, and song/screenwriting. New awards this year include the best-selling import and the best first record by a singer or a group. A panel of judges will select those who will receive life achievement awards. Other judges will select five nominees in each of the other various categories but the public will decide the winners by voting by phone or through the print media.

'Happiness' is a movie at Sundance filmfest

By BOB TOURTELLOTTE

The Sundance Film Festival, the premiere showcase for little-known filmmakers and independent movies in the US, last Wednesday unveiled 114 films to be shown at its 11-day filmfest, starting January 21.

The annual festival, under the auspices of actor-director Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, draws about 12,000 people to the tiny ski resort of Park City, Utah which becomes a sort of Hollywood in the Rockies where celebrities far outnumber the ski patrol.

Culled from a record 850 entries, the competition for best dramatic film includes 16 movies, as does the category for best documentary.

The 1999 lineup reads like a who's who of people and moves nobody really knows. Then again, when 1995's drama winner *The Brothers McMullen* was shown, nobody knew its director and star, Edward Burns. People know him now: Burns just starred in Steven Spielberg's blockbuster *Saving Private Ryan*.

The same thing goes for Todd Solondz, whose quirky *Welcome to the Dollhouse* won the Grand Jury Prize for best dramatic film in 1996. His recent *Happiness* won the award for the best film outside competition this past May at Cannes in France, widely considered the world's top film festival.

Dramatic entrants for the 15th annual festival include *The Adventures of Sebastian Cole*, about a young man coping with a dysfunctional family. *Joe the*

King, about a boy coping with his abusive family and *A Slipping-Down Life* about an obsessive young woman who carves a rock star's name on her forehead.

Of course, it's not all darkness out there among America's independent filmmakers. There are movies like *Happy Texas*, about two escaped convicts caught up in a small town gay beauty pageant, and *Guinevere* directed by Audrey Wells, the screenwriter for the comedy *The Truth About Cats and Dogs*.

Some of the films, like *Sebastian Cole* and *Guinevere* already have been picked for release by studios (Sebastian Cole by Paramount Classics and Guinevere by Miramax), but most are still searching for a distributor who'll pay them big Hollywood bucks for the rights to release their films.

For many documentaries, a strong Sundance showing can mean the difference between surprise fame, as it did for 1994's *Hoop Dreams*, or the obscurity in which most documentary filmmakers live.

This year's group of documentaries vary widely from *Speaking in Strings*, a portrait of violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, to *American Pimp*, a look at the life of pimps across the US.

Finally, Sundance includes 18 films in its American Spectrum showcase category of movies: some 58 short films; as well as several world premieres from top-name directors.

The festival kicks off with the world premiere of director Robert Altman's latest film, *Cookie's Fortune*. (Reuters)

The growth of Mediterranean music

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Close to 100 musicians will gather today for the third annual Mediterranean Musical Forum at Kibbutz Shores for four days of master classes.

The initiative is part of the larger Forum for Mediterranean Cultures organized by the Van Leer Institute, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry for Education, Culture and Sport. Musicologist professor Edwin Seroussi, who was asked to head this musical forum, said the musicians would concentrate on the art of performing rather than the academics of music.

"What is the point of a symposium about music, when you can actually bring musicians together to create in tandem? After all, music is first and foremost a performing-art form," Seroussi said. The first Mediterranean musical forum took place at the Khan Theater in Jerusalem - two visiting ensembles performed in front of enthusiastic audiences. But Seroussi was far from satisfied. "I wanted to witness more interaction between local and visiting musicians. So, last year the format changed into an informal gathering at Shores where the musicians enjoyed each other's company and learned a lot from one another."

This year Seroussi, who is on sabbatical in Los Angeles, wanted to skip the musical forum but was convinced to go ahead with it anyway.

And it was well worth it. Seroussi is thrilled by the huge number of local participants, "all of whom play on ethnic instruments. It seems that this musical facet is growing here immensely."

The four days of master classes at Shores will culminate in a special concert Thursday evening at 9. Nothing specific is planned

for this concert, which will show the results of the interaction between the Israeli musicians and the four guests coming from Azerbaijan, Greece and the US.

Since when is the US counted as a Mediterranean country? Seroussi explains that "last year we focused only on musicians who actually live and work around the Mediterranean, but we thought that the circle could be expanded."

"What matters is not where these musicians come from but rather what music they play."

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Shabbat blues

The Pilgrims came to New England to escape religious persecution, but they promptly enacted "blue laws" - known as such because they were printed on blue paper - to enforce their religious way of life. In the United States and other Western countries, blue laws enforcing a day of rest have mostly been swept away by unrestricted commercialism. In Israel, such blue laws are the rule rather than the exception, but it is appropriate - a recent court ruling notwithstanding - for the Jewish state to buck the Western trend in this respect.

Last week, Jerusalem District Labor Court Judge Ari Tivon ruled in favor of Kibbutz Tzora and six of its members, who had been caught by Labor Ministry inspectors allegedly violating the law against working on Shabbat. The court found that the kibbutzniks had not violated the 1951 labor code prohibiting employing anyone on their day of rest. The ruling was based on a 1969 amendment to the law, which prohibited kibbutzniks (among others) from working in a "workshop" or "factory" on Shabbat, while neglecting to mention "stores." Whether this omission by the Knesset was deliberate, or a failure to anticipate the development of kibbutz stores, will no doubt be debated when the anticipated government appeal of this ruling is heard. Whether or not the ruling stands, it should inspire policy makers to systematically revamp the increasingly frayed, dilapidated, and ill-fitting status quo.

As is usual, both sides in this case are claiming they will fight strenuously to maintain what they claim is the status quo. From the kibbutz perspective, their stores have been quietly open on Shabbat for the past decade or so, and it is the zealots in the Shas-controlled Labor Ministry who are violating the status quo by enforcing an unenforced corner of the law. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu claims that it is the court and the kibbutzniks that are violating the status quo, which he will do his best to uphold.

Rather than another sterile argument over what the status quo is, what is sorely needed is to follow the lead of those who are trying to rewrite the status quo for a society that has changed greatly since that uneasy compromise was struck. Among the most serious of these efforts was the drafting of a "New Covenant on Religion and State" by MKs Alex Lubotzky (The Third Way), Yossi Beilin (Labor), and rabbis from the Meimad movement.

The "New Covenant" recognized the importance of a "common day of rest for the whole family and society." At the same time, the document sought to draw a line that would allow both religious and secular Israelis to observe their "day of rest" as they see fit, without unduly offending or limiting the other. The group suggested that "cultural, entertainment, and vacation" activities will be permitted, while "all other commercial, business, and manufacturing" would remain closed on Shabbat.

Though the labor court showed no overt pretensions of suggesting a comprehensive solution to the question of Shabbat and society, its ruling pointed to a different dividing line: not between cultural and commercial, but between center and periphery. In this way of thinking, Shabbat commerce would be allowed outside urban areas, namely in kibbutzim, and in malls which would not disturb the character of residential areas. Ministers from religious parties, such as Shaul Yahalom (NRP), have spoken out against such a compromise, insisting it would set the country on a slippery slope toward no legal reflection of Shabbat observance. Legally, perhaps, it is difficult to justify discriminating between businesses in different locations, and this could lead to gradual erosion of Shabbat restrictions.

But more important than precisely which line is drawn is how that line is drawn to allow people to live together and define the Jewish character of the state. The original status quo was defined by pre-state practices and by the political exigencies of the time. No one considered it ideal, but simply a place-holder until the time when a more permanent arrangement would be worked out. Fifty years later, the calm moment to properly revisit the issue has not yet arrived.

If we are unsure there will ever be such a quiet time, at least we know that we cannot afford to continue to wait for it. A mechanism should be found to formally revise the status quo as a package, not piecemeal through disparate court rulings and Knesset battles. It is doubtful that the Knesset is the proper forum to hash out a compromise, because the political needs of both extremes will make reaching an agreement too difficult. An independent commission should be appointed with the approval of at least both major parties. No result will be acceptable to everyone, but such a forum is likely to produce something sensible enough so that neither extreme can block its enactment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OUTRAGEOUS COMMENTS

Sir, - Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's comments, as reported in "AACI: Neeman slurs immigrants as tax cheats" (November 19), are outrageous.

As a leading Israeli tax lawyer he undoubtedly knows a great deal about tax evasion and tax avoidance. However, it is perfectly obvious he knows nothing at all about Western immigrants, and cares even less about Western immigration.

Nobody from a Western country coming as an immigrant to Israel

comes here to make a profit or to get out of paying taxes. If either of these two objectives are important for someone, then the last place on earth to come to would be Israel.

In case Neeman needs reminding, Western new immigrants choose to come to Israel because they are Jews and because they are Zionists. His reported comments are a gross insult to Israelis of Western origin, and given the occasion when the words were expressed, they were also a gross discourtesy to the major North

American Jewish representative body.

Your correspondent deserves our thanks for bringing this incident to public attention.

RONI FORMAN
Shinui National Director,
Shinui English Section,
Tel Aviv.

APOLOGY DUE

Sir, - Instead of Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman making public statements about mythological tax cheating by Western immigrants, he might better address Israeli society's growing tendency to avoid responsibility for individual words or actions. He could start with his own example.

It is clear Neeman said what he was quoted as saying. By denying his words, he is now publicly calling five AACI officials liars. Too many of our public officials refuse to stand by their public words or actions when it is shown that they have been incorrect, impolitic, or downright rude.

His apology should be not only to all Western immigrants, whom he painted with a broad discolored brush, but even more so to the five AACI officials whom he labels liars, due to his inability to cope with his own verbal indiscretions. If our government ministers dodge responsibility so readily, it is no wonder we find this behavior growing in the nation at large.

STUART R. GOLDSTEIN
Ramat Yishai.

NEEMAN'S HATEMONGERING

Sir, - If Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman is in possession of evidence of tax cheating by American immigrants it is his duty, as a government official, to turn over such evidence to Israeli and American authorities for prosecution of criminal wrongdoing.

On the other hand, if his outburst is yet another instance of an out-of-control Israeli politician delegitimizing entire seg-

ments of the population out of pure spite and without any basis in fact, Binyamin Netanyahu, as "prime minister of all the people" ought to demand his resignation.

There must be no place for bigots and hatermongers in any Israeli government. The country can no longer afford it.

DR. VICTORIA L. DAUBERT
Jerusalem.

PAINFUL CONCLUSION

Sir, - Apart from the utter stupidity and timing of Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's unwarranted, virulently outburst at AACI officials at last month's General Assembly of North American Jewish Federations, what really upsets and shocks me is his blatant denial of this verbal attack.

Several officials have corrobo-

rated having heard his outburst, which leads one to the painful conclusion that he is lying.

I must be very naive as I simply cannot understand how a respected senior minister with deep religious beliefs can lower himself to such an extent.

DR. M.U. MILUNSKY
Netanya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 7, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that the number of refugees who have so far fled Germany was about 60,000, some 51,000 of whom were Jewish. France received 25,000 refugees, Palestine 6,500, Poland and England about 3,000 each, and other countries the rest.

50 years ago: On December 7, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported on the official opening of "The Courage Road" linking Jerusalem with the coastal plain and Tel Aviv. The road, nicknamed "Burma Road," was the army's great engineering achievement. It was built in eight weeks and run through difficult, mountainous terrain.

25 years ago: On December 7, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the government had ordered from abroad another 500 heavy trucks and a number of railway cars, in addition to the recently brought 2,500 vehicles, in order to ease the trucking shortage.

Alexander Zvielti

Cut our losses

YOSSI OLMERT

I count myself in the "national camp" and I instinctively shy away from words like withdrawal. No longer, though, in the case of Lebanon.

After long and hard deliberation, I have come to the conclusion that Israeli policy in south Lebanon has failed miserably, and it is our top national priority to cut our losses. We can achieve this only by initiating an organized and quick return to the international border.

The question of Lebanon has never polarized Israeli politics along the familiar ideological lines of Left and Right. In the early, euphoric days of "Operation Peace for Galilee," in 1982, supporters came from both Left and Right.

As the situation got out of hand, the erosion of support for the early goals of the Lebanese adventure engulfed both Right and Left. David Levy enhanced his political reputation when he

ideology and Hizbullah is represented, among other political parties, in the new Lebanese parliament. Without the *ijhad* in the south, Hizbullah will be confronted with the boring reality of competing with other political parties over the hearts and souls of Lebanon's poor, mainly the Shi'ites, and will depend on the Lebanese state machinery which is controlled by the Syrians and their Lebanese stooges.

The removal of Rafik Hariri and election of the Syrian-dominated Salim Hoss as the new prime minister just illustrates this point.

Hariri was business-oriented and pro-American. He understood that the volatile situation in the south posed a threat to Lebanon's stability and undermined its rating in the international finance community.

He was more inclined than other Lebanese politicians to consider the possibility of a negotiated Israeli withdrawal, but he was

Continuing the futile and costly Israeli presence in south Lebanon plays into Assad's hands

joined Labor ministers in the National Unity Government in 1985 in voting for withdrawal to the current lines.

Today, the IDF is preoccupied with self-defense, protecting its soldiers, and nothing else. We should do this from our sovereign territory, with overwhelming internal support and without international criticism.

There are three factors in Lebanon which we have to deal with: Hizbullah, Lebanon's government and army, and Syria. All three feel that the current situation is in their favor.

Hizbullah needs the war against Israel to continue justifying its revolutionary ideology, while Lebanon as a whole rejects this

forced out and his successor is in Syria's pocket. This pocket, it seems, is deep enough to digest not only Lebanon's politics, but also Israel's presence in south Lebanon. This presence, in its format of years of stagnation and routine, poses no danger to Syria's interest.

Lebanon is more stable than ever; Syria's grip on its internal and external politics is unshakable and Israel is in a no-win situation. Why on earth should Hafez Assad even care to reconsider his policy in south Lebanon?

His strategic aims in Lebanon are stabilizing the once-uncontrollable country, and he has achieved that; and putting pressure on Israel in the south, in

Dry Bones



order to instigate another round of talks over the Golan Heights.

Assad wants any Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon through an agreement with the puppet government in Beirut to include the re-opening of the Golan file, and that means a complete Israeli surrender of the Golan Heights.

Continuing the futile and costly Israeli presence in south Lebanon plays into Assad's hands. Leaving south Lebanon and creating a new balance of deterrence between Israel and Syria in Lebanon is contrary to Assad's aims and desires.

True, if Assad wants to pressure

Israel he can still order the Hizbullah to harass us, even after a redeployment of the IDF along the international border.

However, past experience shows that he will not. Assad is extremely careful not to provoke trouble in the Golan itself and he will be just as careful after a withdrawal from south Lebanon, provided that our government assures him that we will feel free to do in Lebanon what we have not been ready to do until now.

Does the government have the stamina and determination to pursue such a policy?

For our security's sake, let's hope and pray that it does.

Promises must be kept

YOSEF GOELL

The persistent failures of successive Israeli governments to honor explicit promises to allow residents of Ikrit and Biram to return to their abandoned and largely destroyed villages is one of the few aspects of the War of Independence over which Israel should feel a profound sense of shame.

During the war, in the course of the fighting along the Lebanese border, the residents of both villages - who did not in any way oppose the Israeli forces - were asked to leave their villages "for a few weeks, at most," to permit the completion of military maneuvers, after which, they were told, they would be permitted to return to their homes.

Instead, Israeli governments of all stripes have for 50 years refused to honor those promises.

As a result, the Maronite and Catholic villagers - who, together with their descendants, today number about 3,000 - were scattered as "internal refugees" among a number of other Arab villages in the Galilee and in sections of Haifa.

The case of Ikrit and Biram also represents one of the very few instances in which successive Israeli governments have refused to comply with repeated rulings of the High Court of Justice in support of the villagers' right to return to their homes.

This defiance of the High Court, and the subterfuges resor-

ed to by the government and the security forces - including the bombing by the IAF of the remaining homes in Biram, after one such High Court ruling - was explained by the dire consequences such a return would have for Israel's security.

These "explanations" choose to ignore the fact that the High Court

neighboring kibbutzim and moshavim, which were subsequently built on the lands of Ikrit and Biram.

The Hanegbi recommendations are nearly a verbatim copy of similar recommendations of a committee headed by former justice minister David Liba'i in 1995.

It should also be recalled that

Returning the villagers of Ikrit and Biram would correct a grave injustice, and need not serve as a precedent for anything

has a long and consistent record of tempering its rulings in the face of real security considerations.

Over the weekend it was revealed that a committee headed by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi recommended to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that the surviving villagers and their descendants be permitted to rebuild two residential - as opposed to farming - communities on the sites of their destroyed villages.

The recommendations call for government assistance for such rebuilding and for paying compensation for lands that were confiscated from the villagers half a century ago.

They also contain provisions to safeguard the interests of the

when Likud leader Menachem Begin won power in 1977, one of his first steps as prime minister was to promise that the Biram and Ikrit villagers would be returned to their destroyed homes. But nothing was done to either keep the promises, or fulfill the recommendations.

TODAY, both the IDF and the security services deny that a return of the villagers would in any way have a detrimental impact on Israeli security.

There is one other major argument, however, that has served to shore up opposition to their return, including the reported current opposition of Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Ariel

Sharon. That is the fear that any concession on Ikrit and Biram would serve as a dangerous precedent with regard to the claims of the residents of 50-odd other Arab villages who were displaced during the War of Independence. Allowing these villagers to return and granting their communities official recognition has recently become a major demand of Israeli Arab leaders.

This is a real problem, but the way to deal with it is not to perpetuate another injustice. Israel can and must reiterate that the suffering of Palestinian Arabs - both in 1948 and in 1967 - was the result of the bloody decisions of Arab leaders to wage successive wars of annihilation against Israel. In the real world, people who launch wars and are foolish or inept enough to lose them must pay the price, and there is no reason for Israel to behave differently.

The case of Ikrit and Biram, however, is different. It would be the mark of a mature and benevolent state, if we were at long last to correct that glaring injustice, while at the same time declaring in no uncertain terms that we have absolutely no intention of letting that correction serve as a precedent for undoing the fortunate and historic outcome of the War of Independence.

Mature societies, like mature individuals, should be capable of making such differentiations.

Stop the Holocaust treasure hunt

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

The pursuit of billions in Holocaust guilt money has gone from the unseemly to the disgraceful. What began as an attempt to locate actual confiscated Swiss bank accounts of individual Holocaust victims has turned into a treasure hunt for hungry tort lawyers and major Jewish organizations.

It all started with the \$1.25 billion that the Swiss banks agreed to pay in settlement of Holocaust claims. That opened the floodgates. As chronicled by Barry Meier in the November 29 *New York Times*, it has spurred personal injury lawyers, class-action specialists, and major Jewish domos to seek similar bounties from banks (unredeemed accounts), insurers (unpaid death benefits) and manufacturers (uncompensated forced labor) throughout Europe.

What's wrong with that? What's wrong is that there are few survivors left who will actually benefit from this money transfer. It is late, very late for this kind of restitution. The war ended 53 years ago.

Instead, what is happening is that the lawyers and community bureaucrats will reap the power and the payoff that comes from collecting in the name of those whose names are forever lost. They risk causing, to borrow a phrase from Abe Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League, "an

industry to be made on the memory of victims."

Does that mean that nothing should be done? No. Individual victims who had their savings or property or art stolen should be allowed to seek restitution, even at this late date. Jewish organizations should help by providing lawyers. And the lawyers should help by working pro bono, or at most, on salary.

The Holocaust commands the preservation of memory. It is not an instrument for generating money

But contingency fees? Class-action suits? Fishing for aged Jews from whom they can make a killing? The lawyers crisscross Europe in search of ever richer settlements to extract from any institution - and oh, there are many - with a tainted World War II past.

IS THIS what honoring the Holocaust has come to? A shake-down of Swiss banks, Austrian industry, German auto makers - the list grows daily - that recalls the worst of racial hounding and class-action opportunism in the United States?

Soon no doubt to be added to the list: Ford and General Motors. What did they know and what did they do when their plants were taken over by the Nazis before and during World War II?

This is an important question. But it is work for scholars, not shysters. The Holocaust commands the preservation of memory. It is not an instrument for generating money.

The dead are honored by learning the truth and never letting the world forget it, not by entering into rancorous negotiations with corporate leaders who represent a generation entirely innocent of these crimes.

Looting, moreover, was the least of the crimes of the Holocaust. Nor is it unique. The Holocaust itself, the deliberate mechanized racial murder of six million souls, is a singular crime. Wartime looting is not. It is commonplace. At the end of this bloodiest of centuries, to reduce the Holocaust to looting - to focus memory on money - is lit-

erally to debase the sacred.

Even Israel's acceptance 45 years ago of German reparations was problematic. But at least at that time one could make an argument from necessity: A people collectively made destitute and desperate by German depredations were entitled to German reparations. But today?

Today, the only thing certain to come out of this grotesque scramble for money is a revival of Shylockian stereotypes. This is particularly unfortunate, not just because there is no people more given to philanthropy than the Jews, but also because this generation of Europeans has grown up more free of antisemitic poison than any in European history.

It is one thing to risk reviving dormant anti-Jewish feeling in defense, say, of a vital, living cause like Israel, heir to the civilization destroyed by the Nazis. But for this? For blood money from the Holocaust?

Should we find out and proclaim the truth about Holocaust looting? Of course. And truth about the forced labor. And truth about the industrialists who abetted the Nazi machine. And truth about the peoples of Europe who were silent - or worse.

But money? It should be beneath the dignity of the Jewish people to accept it, let alone seek it.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

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Big Time

From Trustbusters To Trust Trusters

By DAVID E. SANGER

TEDDY ROOSEVELT plotted the beginning of the end of John D. Rockefeller's oil empire at a secret meeting at the White House on a summer night in 1906. Surrounded by his Attorney General and other key cabinet members, he mapped out the antitrust suit against Standard Oil that prompted Henry Clay Frick, the steel baron, to complain on behalf of his fellow oligarchs, "We bought the son of a bitch, and then he didn't stay bought."

It took five years for Roosevelt to win his case in the Supreme Court, breaking up Standard Oil into 34 companies. And for the better part of the next 70 years, Washington's economic agenda was dominated by the high-stakes politics of curbing the power of big enterprises: The regulatory zeal of the New Deal, the oil cartel cases of the 1950's and 60's, the failed — and now foolish looking — 13-year pursuit of L.B.M., the breakup of the Bell System.

But something has changed in Washington in the past decade or so, something that has taken the issue that Woodrow Wilson called "these vast aggregations of capital" off the country's political agenda, even as it lives on in courtroom arguments about the legality of Microsoft's strategies to dominate the electronic ether.

Last week, when two of the biggest remaining parts of the old Rockefeller empire, Exxon and Mobil, were recombined in the world's largest merger, Washington yawned. Richard A. Gephardt, the pro-union, pro-consumer voice of the Democratic Party's left wing, spent the day complaining loudly — about the Clinton impeachment inquiry, and he has yet to say anything about the deal, according to his office. In fact, scarcely a politician of any stripe headed for the cameras to question whether the \$75 billion deal was good for the country, for

workers or for consumers.

The same silence greeted the deal that created Citigroup, which was the largest financial services company for a few minutes until Deutsche Bank bought the Bankers Trust Corporation earlier this month, and Cargill Inc.'s move to snap up Continental Grain, one of the few huge concerns that farmers could turn to if they didn't like the prices Cargill was offering for their harvest.

President Clinton, only steps away from the room where Roosevelt held forth 92 years ago, was hardly pounding the podium. "My position on mergers," he said, "has always been that if they increase the competitiveness of the company and bring lower prices and higher quality services to the consumers of our country, then they are good, and if they don't, they aren't."

Mr. Clinton's fence-sitting reflects the odd politics of an era of prosperity tinged with uncertainty. A few years ago downsizing was a brewing political issue; though layoffs continue — last week the Asian econom-



Teddy Roosevelt in full froth.



John D. Rockefeller in full glory, in the mid-1930's.

In 1998, monopoly players do not go to jail.

ic crisis claimed another 28,000 workers at Boeing — job growth has been so strong that that the issue has been defused.

LESS than a decade ago, when Japanese corporations snapped up Rockefeller Center and two Hollywood studios, many in Congress were in an uproar over the sale of American icons to foreigners. But these days, with the Dow bobbing at record levels and analysts declaring the triumph of American-style capitalism, neither the Deutsche Bank acquisition or Daimler-Benz's purchase of the Chrysler Corporation last spring has yielded a similar furor.

Many theories have been offered to explain this new passivity about the evils of Big Everything: the pace of technological

Continued on Page 10

Eating Disorder

Lean Times at the Russian Dinner Table

By MICHAEL WINES

THEY sell bread on the streets in Russia, from the windows of little roadside kiosks identified by signs proclaiming a single beloved word: bread. White bread, black bread, delicious Georgian bread laced with cheese, braided loaves and loaves baked in the shape of big brown domes, and much more. The average Russian's consumption of baked goods rose 5 percent from 1990 to 1995. In 1996 he ate 143 pounds of bread — 6.4 ounces every day, 385 days a year. Russians even have a saying: "Bread is the beginning of everything."

So why have they begun lately to eat less bread? The answer says a lot

Russian's food bill, compared to 4 percent just a few years ago. It is enough to make some Russians long for Mr. Brezhnev's steady socialist hand on the tiller, at least until they remember the iron grip that came with it.

"The difference between today and the 80's," said Aleksandr K. Baturin, deputy director of the Institute of Nutrition at the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, "is that then the shelves were empty, but people who could buy a bit of fish were satisfied. It was enough. Today you can find almost everything in every store. The question is whether people can afford it."

A relative few can. In prosperous Moscow, two Western-style supermarkets stocking both Russian and European brands opened last month alone. Given enough money, you can now buy Häagen-Dazs and Tony's frozen pizza in Moscow. In a few places, one can even find a real luxury — fresh milk, from Finnish cows.

But Muscovites are less than 10 percent of Russians. The rest of the country briefly flirted with lowfat milk and skimmed chicken breasts and ogli fruit, now found even in parts of Siberia. But it sleeps with traditional Russian cuisine, the comfort food that saw it through Brezhnev and Gorbachev and, now, the lean years of Boris Yeltsin.

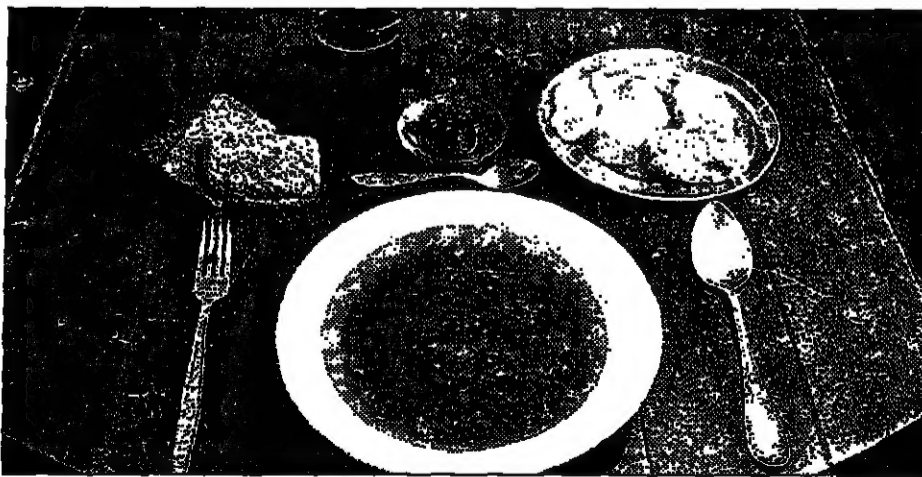
THIS means fatty fried meats, fried potatoes, fried apples, pancakes, cabbage soup topped with mayonnaise, fermented cabbage, butter and dense black bread. And tea. Without milk, but perhaps with a little jam. Preferably bought in bazaar-style markets, from stalls crawling with live crabs and dripping with cattle blood and grunting with produce, none of it freshness-dated or shrink-wrapped by clerks with plastic gloves. To a lot of Western palates, this tastes, well, heavy and greasy. Heavy and greasy is the norm in a climate better suited to reindeer than humans.

Sometimes greasy is good: glorious onion-and-hamburger-filled pancakes, or blinis, that surely were lifted from White Castle recipe books; tasty vinaigrette salads of cabbage and carrots and oil; a good borscht. The key word here is sometimes. The downside of Russian cuisine is that it is not especially healthy; three daily helpings of sausage is bad for the heart. Three daily helpings of potatoes and bread

Continued on Page 12



Breakfast: a glass of kefir, a bowl of kasha, a sausage sandwich, tea.



Lunch: borscht, black bread, beef and vegetable cutlets, boiled potatoes, tea.



Dinner: black bread, beef and vegetable cutlets, fried potatoes, pickle, tea.

Jacqueline Min Foner for The New York Times

The P.A.C. Men Cometh
What's in a name? A lot, when you're running for president and asking for money.

By Jill Abramson

10

Order of Battle
A guide to the war in Congo, the place where Africa is settling its scores.

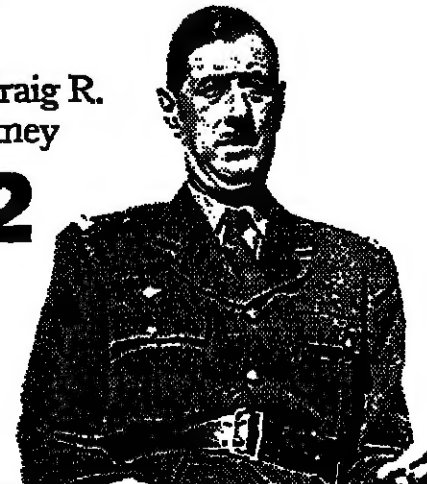
By Donald G. McNeil Jr.

11

Friends Like These
Argue with the British and all is serene. Agree with the French, and watch the fur fly.

By Craig R. Whitney

12



The Nation

By Any Name, It's Still C.A.S.H.

By JILL ABRAMSON

RICHARD NIXON'S political advisers were eerily prescient when they named his 1972 campaign organization the Committee to Re-elect the President: It wasn't too long before his critics dubbed it CREEP, a moniker that proved hard to shake, especially after the Watergate break-in.

Nowadays, when nearly everything in politics is market-tested by polls, focus groups and consultants, it would be unthinkable for a Presidential candidate to blunder into an acronym like CREEP.

Consider Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, a Democrat flirting with another run for President in 2000. The wholesome, uplifting name Mr. Kerrey chose for his political action committee, Building America's Conscience & Kids PAC, has an equally wholesome and uplifting (and even cute) acronym, BACKPAC.

Campaign finance experts estimate that to be competitive in 2000, Presidential candidates will need to raise a minimum of \$2 million — or \$50,000 a day — before the selection of delegates begins in early 2000. So the hopefuls are building war chests even before they declare their candidacies, and most are turning to political action committees to raise money. Like corporations, labor unions and advocacy groups, Congressional leaders and prospective Presidential candidates are allowed to operate such groups under Federal election law.

In today's fund-raising frenzy, candidates and organizations have to be increasingly inventive in thinking up ways to separate donors from their money. Although the evidence is anecdotal, there are signs that patriotic, optimistic or catchy names help political action committees raise more cash. Emily's List, for example, whose memorable name stands for Early Money Is Like Yeast, has become the biggest P.A.C. of them all, raising money for women candidates in Congressional elections.

"People like to identify themselves with positive terms such as hope, future and family," said Larry Sabato, a professor of government at the University of Virginia. "Would you rather give to Americans for Hope Growth and Opportunity or the Committee for Steve Forbes?"

Americans for Hope Growth and Opportunity is the name chosen by Mr. Forbes for the nonprofit group he founded to raise money and help promote his free-market agenda. "The name is his mantra," said Joel Rosenberg, an aide to Mr. Forbes, the wealthy publisher who made a surprisingly strong showing in his upstart bid for the Republican nomination in 1996.

It's also a bit of a mouthful, Mr. Rosenberg conceded. "Some of us said the name was going to be hard

BACKPAC

Campaign for

Working Families

Brochures for political action committees get out the message: Give.

to fit around a mug," he said. But Mr. Forbes liked it, and the organization has managed to pull in an impressive \$13 million from 140,000 donors.

Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, who also ran for the Republican nomination in 1996, has two committees: Campaign for a New American Century and We the Parents. According to an aide, Brian Kennedy, Mr. Alexander chose the names himself. In fact, aides to all of the prospective 2000 candidates insist that their bosses chose their P.A.C. names themselves without the help of polls or consultants.

Mr. Alexander already had a P.A.C. from 1996, the Republican Fund for the 90's, but that wouldn't do for 2000, Mr. Kennedy said.

"The message is for Republicans to provide leadership for the new American century, so that's how he picked the name," Mr. Kennedy explained. We the Parents, he added, was chosen because of Mr. Alexander's desire to put "government and schools and the culture on the side of parents."

Gary Bauer, a conservative leader making his first bid for national office, chose Campaign for Working

The challenge for Election 2000: Make scrounging for money sound pretty.

Families. "It underscores our Main Street focus," said Tim Goeglein, a spokesman for Mr. Bauer. The P.A.C. has already pulled in millions of dollars.

So far Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic front-runner, hasn't set up a committee for 2000. In the most recent election cycle, though, the Vice President set up a P.A.C. on behalf of Congressional candidates that was blandly named "Leadership '98" (Friends of Albert Gore Jr. Inc.). As for this time around, "We're more concerned with the purpose than the name," said Maria Romash, a political adviser to Mr. Gore.

Some P.A.C. names are unabashedly direct, like the recently created Friends of New Gingrich. Others strive for a can-do flavor; last spring, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York unveiled Solutions America, a national organization to finance his out-of-state travel and give money to other Republican candidates.

Some groups don't need stirring acronyms or language to stand out in the crowd: In the last election cycle, a P.A.C. set up to defeat the Republican Congressional candidate Bob Dornan of California called itself The Deranged One Has Been Dumped Committee.

P.A.C. Men

A sampling of political action committees affiliated with possible Presidential candidates and their gross receipts from January 1997 to October 1998.

DEMOCRATS	P.A.C.	RECEIPTS
Al Gore	Leadership '98	
Bob Kerrey	Building America's Conscience & Kid's PAC	\$1.2 million
Richard A. Gephardt	Effective Government Committee	\$1.0 million
Bill Bradley	Time Future Inc., Participation 2000	\$666,000
REPUBLICANS	P.A.C.	RECEIPTS
Gary Bauer	Campaign for Working Families	\$5.9 million
Dan Quayle	Campaign America	\$5.4 million
Lamar Alexander	Campaign for a New American Century, We the Parents	\$3.8 million
John Ashcroft	Spirit of America	\$2.2 million
Jack F. Kemp	Freedom and Free Enterprise PAC	\$869,000

Sources: Federal Election Commission, Virginia Board of Elections and P.A.C. political directors.

The New York Times

Masters of Jersey

Wall Street Shudders At Life Across the River

By CHARLES V. BAGLI

TO the surprise of almost no one, the New York Stock Exchange has agreed to stay in New York. Whether its well-heeled officials really, truly, turn-blue-and-die meant their many threats to move to New Jersey will probably never be known.

After years of negotiations, the exchange finally muscled city and state officials into coming up with \$800 million in cash and tax breaks for a new trading complex in lower Manhattan. The exchange's board still has to vote, but by Friday, it was virtually a done deal.

But buckets of money aside, there are certain intangibles that add up to a strong case that they were never really serious about leaving. There are, after all, some things that you just can't put a price on.

Start with the name problem. The New Jersey Stock Exchange. The Jersey City Stock Exchange. Actually, officials had anticipated that problem long ago and secured the right to call themselves the New York Stock Exchange wherever they might land. Still, there would be the inevitable jokes.

"People use the phrase Wall Street around the world," said H. Claude Shostal, president of the Regional Plan Association. "It's a brand name and a marketing image. It's Coca-Cola; it's Scotch tape. The New York Stock Exchange would jeopardize its enormous psychological and marketing value if it moved very far away from Wall Street."

Some companies will move part of their operations to less expensive space in New Jersey or elsewhere, Mr. Shostal said. For an institution like the New York Stock Exchange, however, there is an incalculable value in being in New York, where the financial industry is concentrated.

In the 1980's, Mr. Shostal made his living luring New York companies to Jersey City for Cushman Realty. He jumped through hoops putting together a deal to build a broadcasting headquarters for NBC in Jersey City, only to see NBC snap up a \$100 million tax break to stay at Rockefeller Center. "We knew Tom Brokaw was not going anywhere," he said. "The people in the bright red suspenders and the silk ties are not going to go to Jersey City."

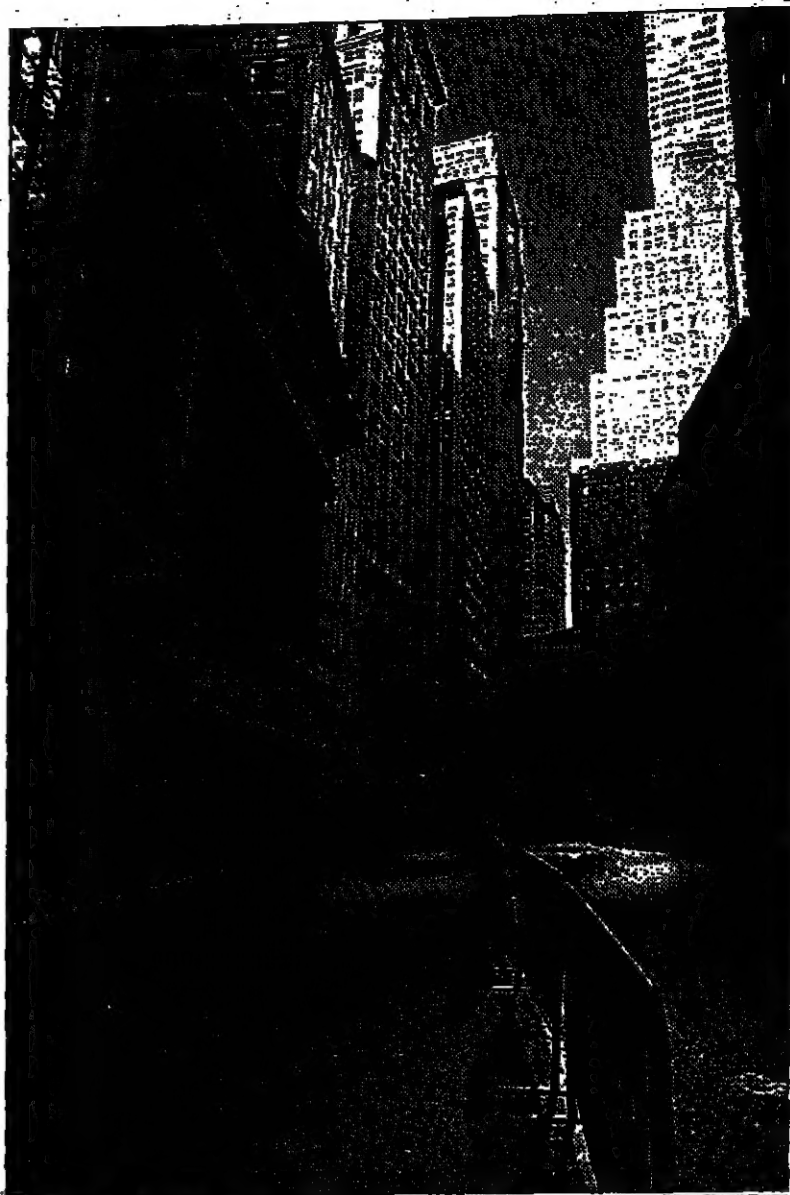
After all, New Jersey is off the beaten limo track. Could the masters of the universe have handled the logistics? The trip from, say, Greenwich would border on indignity. The train to Grand Central, then the subway to Times Square, then a transfer to a subway to Penn Station, a walk through the tunnels to get the Path train for the trip under the Hudson River to Jersey City. Then a taxi or who knows what to the new quarters.

And could they really leave behind the headquarters of Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and Salomon Smith Barney, or the restaurants, or the recognition of having made it in New York?

Mr. Shostal did get Merrill Lynch to move several thousand back office workers to Jersey City. But, he said, the tax breaks and subsidies on either side of the river are merely icing on the cake. "The vast majority of tenants locate where they need to for business reasons," Mr. Shostal said. "The bidding war between the states is really a milking of the public sector, rather than a determining factor in where they want to go."

There is no question that the New York Stock Exchange, which pays about \$51 million a year in a variety of taxes, is cramped at its 100-year-old home on Wall Street. On an average day, 680 million shares are traded on the market, up from 160 million 10 years ago. Richard A. Grasso, the chairman of the exchange, who lives on Long Island, always maintained that he wanted to remain in New York. Yet, new construction is always a difficult proposition in Manhattan.

In playing the relocation card, the Stock Exchange was no different than Mercedes-Benz, Nebraska Beef,



The New York Stock Exchange, left, will stay in Manhattan for now.

Intel Corporation or any company that has pitted one state against another, from Alabama to Maine and California. Corporate relocation has had as much to do with the chairman's comfort as with economics. In a study of 38 companies that left Manhattan in the 1970's, the urban planner William H. Whyte found that 31 moved to within 8 miles of the chairman's home.

Sometimes, the flight to the suburbs ends in a crash landing. Mr. Whyte found that 17 of the 38 departed companies were later bought out or raided, or merged with a dominant partner. A majority posted lower-than-average profits, while a comparable group of three dozen major companies that remained behind saw their stock valuation jump an average of 277 percent.

BUT this is an old movie. In 1990, New Jersey offered to build New York's five commodity exchanges a \$100 million complex at the Harborside Financial Center before New York offered a more generous deal. Five years later, the Cotton Exchange signed a letter of intent to move to New Jersey, but New York countered with a higher bounty and the traders stayed put.

Even the developers in New Jersey who talked to the New York Stock Exchange privately acknowledged long ago that they had little chance of luring away the Stock Exchange.

Mitchell L. Moss, director of the Taub Urban Research Center at New York University, said the New York Stock Exchange needs to be in Manhattan to retain its crown as the world's largest equity market, especially with Frank G. Zarb's Nasdaq moving to New York and merging with the American Stock Exchange.

"New Jersey may be a better place to live but it's not a better place to work," said Mr. Moss. "There is more of a chance of schmoozing and acquiring random information in an hour in the hallways, on the streets, at lunch or on the concourse at Grand Central Terminal in New York than there is by spending a week in a parking lot in New Jersey."

Big Time

From Trust Busting to Trust Trusting

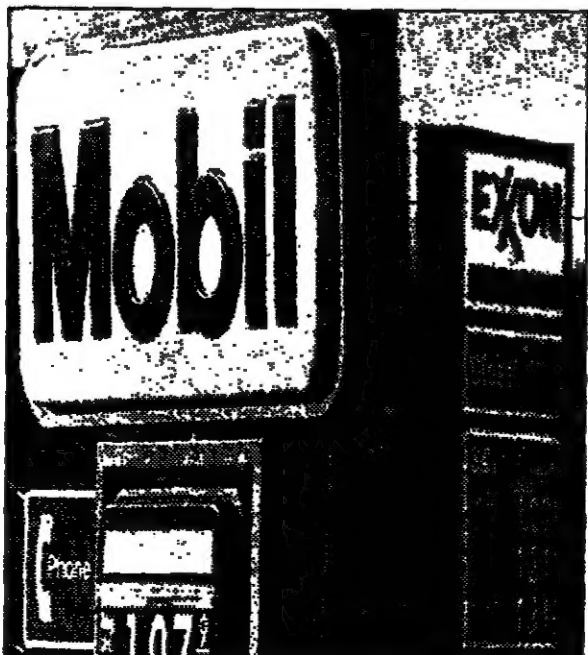
(Continued from Page 9)

change, or the realities of borderless competition in a year of global tumult, or the confusing business currents that at once celebrate the global reach of American-based multinationals and the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses.

And perhaps it's just temporary — if prices start going up again at the pump, or if the American economy falters, there could be a renewed clamor to reign in corporations viewed as too big, too powerful or too heartless. But whatever the reason, noted Senator Paul Wellstone, the Minnesota Democrat who is among the few in Congress still exercised about the concentration of corporate power, "Once upon a time this was a burning issue, and now it's not even on the table."

The Government's current antitrust case against Microsoft seems at first blush to be the notable exception: It's hard to turn on the television these days without hearing about the company's supposed scheme to dominate the Internet browser market, or its secret strategies to flatten competitors. (Imagine the muck Ida Tarbell could have raked with access to E-mail.)

But among politicians, the case is rarely mentioned. No one ran for office on a platform of Gates-bashing the way Roosevelt once called Rockefeller's crowd "the biggest criminals in the country." At a rare high-profile hearing this year on the long-term effect of mergers, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, argued that the Government was inept at determining in advance those mergers that would create competitive problems and would be wiser to wait and see.



Even before last week's merger, these two giants were operating on the same page.

"I would feel very uncomfortable if we inhibited various different types of mergers or acquisitions on the basis of some presumed projection as to how markets would evolve, how technology would evolve," he said, "because history is strewn with people making projections that have turned out to be grossly inaccurate."

Mr. Greenspan's view was challenged at the hearing, chiefly by Joel I. Klein, the assistant attorney general in charge of antitrust, and Robert Pitofsky, the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, which will review the Exxon-Mobil merger and presumably force the company to divest some assets. Mr. Pitofsky noted that undoing the damage after employees of an acquired company have been fired, after its plants have been closed and after top management has moved on, "is enormously expensive."

BUT the fact remains that few lawmakers dare to venture deep into this territory, even though it sustained generations of their predecessors. "The biggest reason is the mix of money and politics," says Senator Wellstone, who is intensely focused on the issue as he decides whether to run for his party's Presidential nomination. "For both parties, these are the heavy hitters, the monied interests who have a huge impact on the tenure of people in Congress. Not too many people want to challenge them."

Of course, that was also true in Roosevelt's day, even if Frick and other monopolists came to regret their support of the President. But Senator Wellstone notes a second reason: the quiet arrival in Washington

of "a set of shared assumptions about what is necessary these days for survival in a global economy."

The first is that while bigger is not always better, it may be the only way to extend one's reach abroad. "The ability to be a global player and to be competitive anywhere in the world has become more important as all the traditional walls of regulation, state ownership and time barriers have come down," said Daniel Yergin, chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

The second assumption is that technology moves faster than antitrust cases. When the Government began its push against L.B.M. in the late 1960's, the microprocessor had just been invented. By the time the case was abandoned, the microprocessor was revolutionizing the computer industry, and L.B.M. was missing the boat. It caught up, but market dominance was no longer an issue.

And the breakup of the Bell System, while leading to lower long-distance rates and helping to promote technological advances, has also driven millions of consumers up the wall. For many, the only thing more annoying than trying to figure out how to get a phone fixed is answering dinner time calls from solicitors trying to sign up customers for a new phone service nobody has ever heard of.

In the end, today's trust-busters are no longer politicians but technocrats and regulators who, over the next few months, will be reviewing neighborhood-by-neighborhood what to do about streets that have both a Mobil and an Exxon station. Almost no one is talking about blocking the merger itself, a merger that a decade ago Exxon would not have dared to think possible.

هكذا من الامم

The World

A War Turned Free-for-All Tears at Africa's Center



A rebel soldier on a cargo plane, en route to Buta.

By DONALD G. MCNEIL Jr.

MOST wars in Africa since the end of colonialism have been civil wars. Even though their borders were drawn by Victorian imperialists, African states have generally kept their armies inside them, no matter how flagrantly those long-dead European males ignored tribal affinities and natural landscapes.

The war in Congo, the huge central African country formerly known as Zaire, is changing all that. Troops from as far south as Namibia and as far north as Chad are fighting inside the vast equatorial basin of the Congo River. Would-be presidents, waiting to step forward if Laurent Kabila is overthrown, are preening in hotel rooms from Cape Town to Brussels. Mining companies from South Africa to Canada are holding their breaths — and checkbooks — waiting to see how things turn out.

In truth, Congo is a single country in name only. Because the interior is so impassable and the hinterlands so ungovernable, it has functioned for years like three — the east imports and sells through Uganda and Kenya, while the south does so through Zambia and South Africa; only the west and the interior answer to the capital, Kinshasa. Now, this war is threatening to make the informal state of affairs into a formal division.

Every force in the Congo fights for a different reason. Sadly, greed and hatred are the two strongest.

In one sense, what has developed is a tribal war along lines that are almost Biblical — rulers from Nilotic ethnic groups in Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda against Bantu peoples of central and southern Africa in league with Arab rulers of northern Chad and Sudan.

But the old adage “the enemy of my enemy is my friend” also applies. The Sudan is involved, for example, because it hates Uganda, which supports guerrillas in southern Sudan. Zimbabwe and Namibia say they are defending Congo’s sovereignty, but they are reported to have been promised mining deals by Mr. Kabila.

In brief, with Congo as weak as it is, it is simply too big, too central and too rich in resources for its neighbors not to encroach on. And the deeper some go in, the more likely their rivals are to join the fray. The war has

Congo has always been disunited. Now it may splinter altogether.

become a continent-wide free-for-all.

By various estimates, Mr. Kabila started with some 15,000 effective troops, half of whom defected to the other side. He is aided by 8,000 Zimbabweans, perhaps 5,000 Angolans, 3,000 Sudanese and Chadians and 300 Namibians. The war also reflects the ethnic split between central Africa’s Tutsi and Hutu groups. Up to 12,000 poorly organized Hutus, chased out of Rwanda in 1994, are said to be helping him, even though his own Tutsi-led forces slaughtered fellow Hutus in 1997.

Arrayed against them are an unknown but probably larger force of rebels. Many of these are Banyamulenge Tutsis who were born in Congo but were denied citizenship both by the former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko and by Mr. Kabila. These Tutsi are backed by Rwandans and Ugandans fighting to defeat Hutu raiders based in eastern Congo.

Both sides use Soviet-bloc weapons, but the rebels are said to have better American communications gear.

Even so, the scale of fighting must be kept in mind. The former Zaire is about the same size as the portion of today’s United States that was involved in the American Civil War, and its population, 40 million, is roughly the same as that of the Union and Confederacy combined. But while 2.9 million Americans on both sides were under arms between 1861 and 1865, the whole of Congo is being fought over by fewer than 70,000 men.

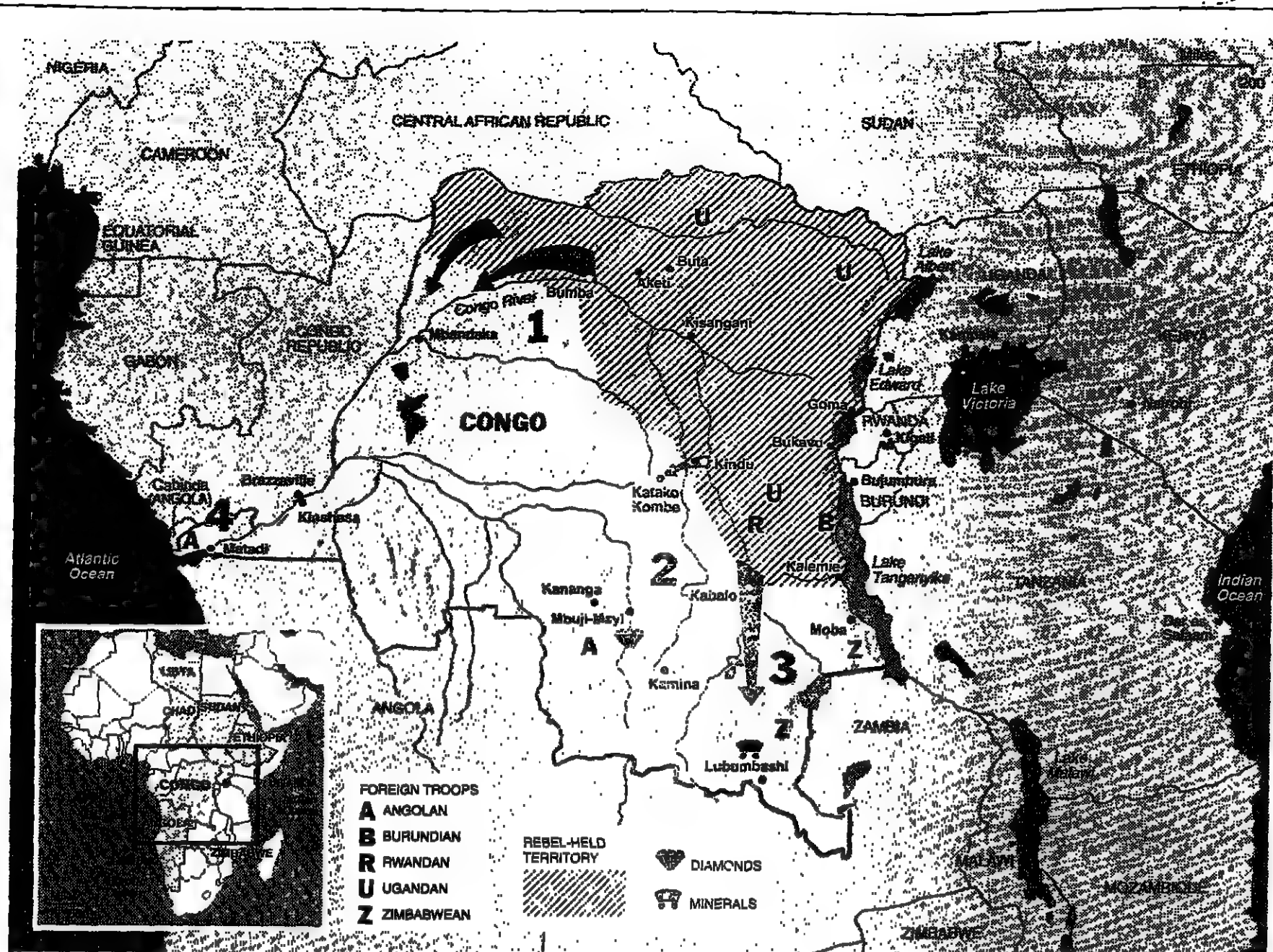
What they are fighting is only barely a mechanized war. Tanks were used briefly in the far west, some Zimbabwean and Angolan jets have bombed rebels and the most dramatic move of the war was the hijacking of three cargo planes to carry rebels 1,300 miles from the eastern border to the Atlantic for an abortive assault on Kinshasa. Mostly, though, it is a war of men slogging down dirt roads with AK-47s, sometimes helping armored cars through the mud. When Zimbabwe claimed recently to have bombed a “rebel supply column,” it said the column comprised 1,500 cattle.

“The forces in Congo have to be small — they’re living off the local population, stealing food and extorting money,” said Richard Cornwell, a South African military historian. “The units aren’t really a coherent force, and there isn’t really a front line. It’s more like a series of dots with skirmish lines blocking the roads.”

Looting is endemic. Angolan troops, Mr. Cornwell said, agreed to fight only in return for booty, and cargo planes are flying home their gains, including cars and refrigerators.

And even if a winner emerges, ruling Congo is no piece of cake. Poverty, illiteracy and disease are endemic. There are rich lodes of diamonds, gold, cobalt and copper, but millions of dollars worth of equipment and roads are needed to extract them. The Belgians profited here in the early part of the century, but they governed only through astonishing brutality; at one time, piles of preserved hands bore witness to the policy that a quota of villagers had to be killed to maintain rule by terror. Then, in the 1970’s, 80’s and 90’s, Mr. Mobutu amassed an immense fortune but ignored his desperate people until Mr. Kabila’s forces overthrew him last year.

Now there is some pressure for peace. Zimbabwe,



Who's Fighting Whom

THE CONGO COALITION

Forces loyal to the Government of Congo have been joined by units from Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia. The Sudan and Chad also have been involved in fighting for the Government, which has also employed units of Hutu refugees from Rwanda. In addition, Libya, Gabon, Eritrea and Equatorial Guinea have all threatened to enter the war on the side of the Government.

THE REBEL COALITION

Congolese rebels in many of them Banyamulenge, who are ethnic Tutsis living in Congo but denied citizenship. They have been joined by Ugandan and Rwandan forces. Angolan rebel forces and a few troops from Burundi have also been rumored to have joined; there is also speculation that if Eritrea enters the conflict on the side of the Congo Coalition, Ethiopia will join the rebels.

The Battle Fronts

1 NORTH

A Congo Coalition unit made up mainly of Chadian forces recently attacked Buta, which has been in rebel hands since the summer, but was repelled with heavy casualties. Rebel forces moved west of Buta, capturing Akefi and Bumba on a route that follows the Congo River toward Mbandaka and the capital, Kinshasa. The force has been marching on Mbandaka, as has another Congolese rebel force led by Jean-Pierre Bemba.

2 CENTRAL

Rebel forces have been moving west from Kindu toward Katakombé, after which they are expected to turn south toward Kananga and Mbuji-Mayi, which is the center of the diamond industry. The terrain around Kananga and Mbuji-Mayi is open and favors the air power and artillery of the Government forces.

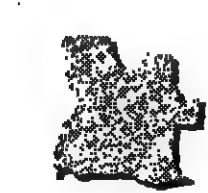
3 SOUTHEAST

A rebel force has captured Kabalo and is preparing to move south against Lubumbashi, which is the center of a region rich in minerals, especially copper. A rebel force has taken Moba on Lake Tanganyika. The route south to Lubumbashi is swampy, and some analysts speculate that the rebels may try to infiltrate through northern Zambia, drawing another country into the war.

4 WEST

In a daring move just after fighting began in August, the rebels hijacked three Congolese planes in the east and ferried troops to the Atlantic coast. They quickly captured several cities and military bases and were within 50 miles of Kinshasa when the Government's allies intervened and Angolan, Namibian and Zimbabwean forces drove the rebels back. However, small rebel units continue to operate in the bush, ready to mobilize if other rebel units reach Kinshasa.

Adjoining Conflicts



ANGOLA

A civil war rages between the Government and the rebel forces of Jonas Savimbi, whose movement also supports another rebel movement in the tiny, oil-rich Angolan enclave of Cabinda on the Atlantic coast.



SUDAN

A civil war rages between the Government and a number of rebel organizations led by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. Uganda supports the rebel group.

UGANDA

The Government is fighting two rebel organizations, the Alliance of Democratic Forces, which is supported by the Sudan and Congo, and the Lord's Resistance Army, which is supported by the Sudan.

RWANDA

Hutu forces allied with the Congo Coalition are operating from base camps inside Congo and launching attacks against Rwanda, whose Government is dominated by Tutsis.

BURUNDI

The Government is also controlled by Tutsis. As in Rwanda, Hutu forces allied with the Congo Coalition are operating from base camps inside Congo and launching attacks against Burundi.

Sources: NCN Central Africa Watch; Institute for Strategic Studies, South Africa

Photo: C.T. Edwards/The New York Times



Robert Grossman for The New York Times



Robert Grossman for The New York Times

As war grinds on, hope for the future keeps receding in Congo. At left, a child soldier in Kinshasa takes a break. Above, impoverished young men search for diamonds in the mud at a small mine near Mbuji-Mayi.

The World

The French Aren't Alone in Having Gall

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

WITH allies like France, does the United States really need enemies? Put another way: With allies like Britain, who needs France?

More often than they like to admit, exasperated American policy makers have asked themselves questions like these over the years.

But as Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright heads for Brussels and Paris this week for meetings with allied foreign ministers and a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, she might reflect that American disagreements with Britain over the past half century have sometimes been as rancorous as those with the French.

The United States and Britain clashed over a joint French and British attempt to grab the Suez Canal in 1956, and did not see eye to eye about what should be done to stop the fighting in Bosnia until 1995.

But ever since two soul mates named Churchill and Roosevelt commiserated about their dealings with an individualist named de Gaulle, the strong underlying assumption of trust that exists between Washington and London has simply not been there to the same degree between Washington and Paris.

Americans tend to think the world of the British, and the worst of the French. Even when France and the United States are in basic agreement, as they are at the moment on Iraq, there's always somebody like Senator John McCain of Arizona to throw a monkey wrench into the works.

Senator McCain, whom the French consider no friend, appeared to suggest on an American television news show that the reason Saddam Hussein had been able to avoid Anglo-American bombing last month might have been that France had tipped him off that the bombers were on the way.

Never mind that the United States itself had warned Iraq repeatedly that it faced imminent bombing if it didn't back down and comply with United Nations resolutions on arms inspection. Mr. McCain denied accusing the French, and officials in Britain later confirmed that nobody had given the exact



Casablanca, 1943: The English-speaking Roosevelt and Churchill flank de Gaulle.

timetable to them anyway.

Even when Britain and the United States are in basic disagreement, as they were during much of the war in Bosnia until 1995, American Anglophilia tends to rewrite history. This left the impression that it was actually the French who didn't want the United States to start bombing in Bosnia to stop Serbian aggression and halt attacks on lightly armed United Nations peacekeepers from Britain and France.

FRANCE did indeed have to overcome sympathies for Serbia that date from World War I, but as recently published memoirs by a British commanding general of the United Nations peacekeepers in Bosnia, Sir Michael Rose, confirm, Britain was strongly opposed to heavy NATO bombing raids that the Americans kept wanting to launch against the Bosnian Serbs.

Prime Minister John Major's conservative Government feared that the Serbs would retaliate by attacking the peacekeepers.

The impasse was not broken until President Jacques Chirac came to power in France in 1995 and mobilized British and American support for a policy with more military muscle, after the Serbs overran the United Nations "safe area" in Srebrenica and massacred Muslim civilians.

NATO did go ahead with a strategic bombing campaign and the Serbs, after suffering other setbacks on the ground, agreed to a cease-fire and a beefed-up NATO peacekeeping operation that finally put American troops, along with others, on the ground alongside the French and British.

The Labor Government of Prime Minister Tony Blair has begun moving closer to French ideas for making Europe capable of an autonomous defense within NATO, but it has also made privileged British relations with the United States a declared strategic objective.

That is much too abject a policy for France, French officials say. After all, Louis XVI gave the Marquis de Lafayette 6,000 troops to help George Washington in 1777 not

because the King shared Lafayette's enthusiasm for the revolutionaries but to make trouble for the British, who were his enemy. Ever since, French-American relations have been like a long-running marriage, frequently warmed by frictions.

De Gaulle restored pride to a nation humiliated by defeat in World War II, often at American expense. "The French need to take pride in France," de Gaulle explained to his acolyte Alain Peyrefitte in 1962. "Otherwise, they fall into mediocrity, fight with each other and head for the bistro."

Henry Kissinger understood. "De Gaulle was not anti-American in principle," he wrote in his book "Diplomacy" (Touchstone/Simon & Schuster). "He was willing to cooperate whenever, in his view, French and American interests genuinely converged. Thus during the Cuban missile crisis, American officials were astonished by de Gaulle's all-out support — the most unconditional backing extended to them by any allied leader."

DE GAULLE dominated Europe, but he didn't want anyone else to — not the Soviet Union, certainly, but not the United States, either.

Even today, French leaders tend to see the United States in Steinbeckian terms, as a strong, friendly but unsophisticated giant whose full embrace might be fatal.

So when the United States says that it really does want a united, prosperous Europe, and doesn't feel threatened by plans for the euro, the new common European currency that will be used next month, the French either don't believe it or suspect that what the United States must really want is a Europe led by Britain.

The French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, also worries about a world in which there is only one superpower — the United States — overwhelming all other countries with its military, economic, technological and cultural strength. "Their weight carries them towards hegemonism, and the idea they have of their mission is unilateralism," he told the daily *Liberation* recently. "And that is not acceptable."

French diplomats tell their American friends that frank advice, not sycophantism, is the mark of true friendship. By that measure, France is indeed the most stalwart of allies.

Lean Times In Russia

Continued from Page 9

can lead to obesity, and half of all Russian adults are overweight.

Nor does freedom from Communist shackles seem to have helped much. Post-Communist Russia has been flooded with Western meats and groceries — up to half of all food sales — yet a recent study by one expert concluded that the vitamin content of Russian diets has not appreciably improved. Virtually every Russian suffers from vitamin deficiency. Among Russian children, half of whom do not regularly drink milk, the shortage of B vitamins, which promote bone growth, is catastrophic, Mr. Baturin says.

"Our way of life is a violation of the norms from the very beginning," said Yana P. Popova, an administrator at the Government's premier center for treating food-related disorders.

This is not to say that Russians are better when the Kremlin played mama, ordering its subjects to eat what was put in front of them or go hungry. But turning the Russian diet over to the market has been a mixed bag. There is, for instance, the free, hot lunch. Under Soviet rule, virtually every factory and office worker got one, either free or nearly so, as part of the state's cradle-to-grave package of social benefits. In modern Russia, there is no such thing as a free lunch — and many people simply do not eat as a result. Most Russians eat twice a day — morning and late evening, Ms. Popova said.

SKIPPING a meal could be seen as a good thing. A few years ago, the average Russian packed away 3,000 calories a day by some measures, a quarter more than is recommended. And the calorie intake has dropped during the 1990's. But the dropped calories came largely from costlier foods that are important to a healthy diet. Mr. Baturin's institute periodically asks thousands of Russians about their eating habits, and some conclusions are disturbing. Fruit consumption dropped one-third between 1990 and 1995; meat, one-quarter; vegetables, a fifth. Fish consumption was halved.

On one hand, less meat means less fat — and some Russian doctors point to that to explain a slow decline in heart ailments that began in 1994. But it also has immediately led to an increase in iron deficiencies among women; a third of pregnant women lack enough iron. The decline in fruit consumption now means that 20 percent of Russians are critically low in vitamin C — so low they risk getting rickets.

Cost is one factor, Mr. Baturin said, but another is inertia. Most fruits and vegetables have never grown well in Russia; cabbage is the primary source of vitamin C. People eat what they know. Just as western Russians eschew one southern appetizer — donkey-meat jerky traditionally cured by several weeks beneath the saddle of a sweaty horse (it tastes like a Slim Jim) — others are repelled by sweet peppers. Or artichokes. Or pears.

But not everyone. Mr. Baturin tells of coming across a report of Russian family that loved pears, despite living in a remote Siberian town where pears were uncommon. Delighted by their healthy eating habits, he decided to find out what led them to add fruit to their diet. The answer was simple and telling. The husband was jobless; the wife worked but had not been paid in months. To survive, they unloaded fruit trucks — and were paid part of their salary in castoff pears.

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BREAKFAST

Six-ounce glass of kefir (a sour, yogurt drink) 100

Bowl of kasha (a porridge made from wheat or buckwheat) 285

Tea with two lumps of sugar 30

A sausage sandwich 320

LUNCH

One bowl of borscht 375

One and a half slices of black bread 100

Two beef and vegetable cutlets 200

Three-ounce serving of boiled potatoes 70

Tea with veronik (sweet berries) 30

DINNER

One and a half slices of black bread 100

Two beef and vegetable cutlets 200

Three-ounce serving of fried potatoes 275

Half a pickle 5

Tea with veronik (sweet berries) 30

TOTAL 2,100

הכרזה מן האוכל

He Has Seen The Enemy, And It Looks Just Like Him

By TIMOTHY L. O'BRIEN

WHAT would Freud have made of the way George Soros, the world's most famous hedge fund manager, describes the tension brought on by having made a fortune as a speculator and then having reinvented himself as a globe-trotting philanthropist?

"Sometimes I felt like a gigantic digestive tract, taking in money at one end and pushing it out at the other," Mr. Soros writes earthily in the preface to his new book, "The Crisis of Global Capitalism" (Public Affairs, \$26). "But in fact a considerable amount of thought connected the two ends."

And what to make of a man who has raked in billions through lightning strikes in free-wheeling currency markets, but now advises the world on how to clean up the messes he thinks such strikes create?

While Mr. Soros has been playing the multiple roles of trader, philosopher and philanthropist for many years, the friction has come into sharper relief in recent months, as he has boldly prescribed cures for a variety of the world's economic ills.

It has been most conspicuous in Russia, where Mr. Soros, with more than \$1 billion at stake in the country, actively lobbied Russian and American officials to accept his advice on the best way to resolve the summer's financial crisis. Mr. Soros' book includes a day-by-day account of his high-level phone contacts and memoir-writing in the weeks before and after the August devaluation of Russia's currency, the ruble.

"There's a potential conflict — I've always taken great care not to exploit it," said Mr. Soros, 66, gently tapping his eyeglasses against a conference table in his mid-Manhattan office. "And I think that people, both in Russia and Washington, knew that, and that's why they took the calls, because I think I have established a certain record in that regard."

Still, many observers wonder about Mr. Soros' straddling of so many fences in the worlds of finance, economics and politics.

"I think there's a built-in conflict between making money in public markets and improving the world," said James Grant, editor of a newsletter, Grant's Interest Rate Observer, and the author of several studies of financial markets. "Soros is out there telling you what he's doing, what he's going to do and how he'll save the world. I think there's a conflict because those goals seem at cross-purposes."

For his part, Mr. Soros, dapper and attentive, defended his probity in a wide-ranging interview last week, saying he has always strived to keep separate his roles as a hard-nosed trader placing global bets and a financial guru able to rub elbows with the highest of the high and mighty. Though he had run-ins with American regulators in the 1970's and 80's, he has never been accused of insider trading or similar financial wrongdoing.

"We have to distinguish between playing by the rules and making the rules," Mr. Soros said. "Playing by the rules, one does the best one can, irrespective of the social consequences. Whereas in making the rules, people ought to be concerned with the social consequences and not with their personal interests — in other words, not to bend the rules to their benefit or their advantage. This is a principle which I have certainly observed."

Yet Mr. Soros, who is believed to be worth about \$5 billion, is uniquely positioned to help determine how the rules are made in some parts of the world, and he built his fortune in currency markets where the rules were never entirely clear.

AS the Russian crisis mounted in August, for example, Mr. Soros worked his Rolodex, summoning influential Russian politicians and United States Treasury Department officials to the telephone. He pushed for a big international bailout and a devaluation of the ruble to bolster Russia's troubled economy.

At the same time, Mr. Soros had \$1 billion invested in a Russian telecommunications concern — through a partnership with one of Russia's powerful "oligarchs" — as well as investments in Russian stocks, bonds and the ruble. Mr. Soros was also the overseer of a philanthropic foundation in Moscow that generously financed a range of causes, including education, the arts, sciences and media, through about \$61 million in annual grants.

If Mr. Soros ruled the world, he said, he would establish an international regulatory agency to rein in speculative excesses and provide financing during economic crises.

"To put it bluntly, the choice confronting us is whether we will regulate global financial markets internationally, or leave it to each individual state to protect its own interests," he wrote in his book. "The latter course will surely lead to the breakdown of the gigantic circulatory system which goes under the name of global capitalism."

A Hungarian-born Jew, Mr. Soros was 14 when the Nazis invaded his homeland. He avoided the fate of

many Jews by posing as the godson of a Hungarian official overseeing the confiscation of Jewish properties. He moved to London after the war and eventually graduated from the London School of Economics.

Mr. Soros moved to New York in the late 1950's and became a trader, soon carving out a niche exploiting differences between the London and New York markets, a gulch he mined through the 60's before venturing into the new world of hedge funds.

Hedge funds — largely unregulated investment pools open only to wealthy investors and big institutions — aim to provide consistently outsized returns on stocks, bonds, currencies or other securities while limiting losses from market downturns. Mr. Soros, an aggressive, gutsy speculator, ran one of the earliest and most successful of these — the Quantum Fund — for two decades beginning in 1969.

Basing Quantum in the loosely regulated confines of the Caribbean island of Curaçao, Mr. Soros often racked up returns in excess of 30 percent a year and twice posted annual returns of more than 100 percent, according to the fund's most recent quarterly report. He was one of the first investors to hunt down

George Soros, speculator and sage, is an unlikely minder of markets.

opportunities around the world, eventually spawning a legion of imitators and fellow enthusiasts.

"George opened all of our thinking to macroeconomic theory, and he made globalists of us all by making us understand the importance of geopolitical events on the U.S. economy," said Byron Wien, chief domestic investment strategist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, who has known Mr. Soros for about 30 years.

Mr. Soros gave up day-to-day management of Quantum in 1988, but he is still consulted on major trades and is one of three supervisors of Soros Fund Management, the New York firm that oversees Quantum and his other funds. Since the late 1980's he has also been a ubiquitous philanthropist, donating money to causes around the globe to realize his vision of an open society. Last year, his foundations gave away \$428 million, with Russia the single largest recipient and political reform in Eastern Europe one of his chief causes.

Along the way, Mr. Soros has become an incisive critic of the predations of unfettered capitalism, a theme that has taken on even greater resonance in the wake of the financial calamities in Asia and Eastern Europe over the last 18 months.

"Markets basically are amoral, whereas society does need some kind of morality — a distinction between right and wrong," Mr. Soros observed.

OF course, no one in the markets proves the point better than Mr. Soros himself. It was in 1992 that he became a household name, when Quantum and related funds, largely using piles of borrowed money, made more than \$1 billion in a few weeks by betting against the British pound. Britain's central bank wasted its reserves in an unsuccessful effort to defend the currency's value. The episode derailed Britain's membership in a European initiative seeking to rationalize exchange rates — and it earned Mr. Soros this sobriquet: "the man who broke the Bank of England."

Mr. Soros has also described some forms of financial derivatives — highly volatile and complex investing products — as the economic equivalent of crack cocaine. Yet he has used derivatives in his own speculating, explaining that his funds favor only the simplest varieties.

Such inconsistencies give pause to those who might otherwise share his views. "It's an amusing spectacle to see a guy like him who's made a fortune speculating now going around denouncing newcomers to the field," said Doug Henwood, author of "Wall Street" (Verso, \$29), an examination of financial markets. "It's like he suddenly found religion late in life and now wants to be Begeel in a hedge fund."

Mr. Soros' manifold roles on the world stage became most apparent in August, during the Russian economic meltdown, when he leaped into the fray.

Though he had a longstanding interest in Russia — inspired by his father's time there as a prisoner of war, followed by a brief residency, during and after World War I — Mr. Soros said he had steered clear of investing there in the years immediately after the fall of Communism. Rather, he sank money into the country through philanthropy.

But as early as 1994, he had been in and out of Russia as an investor. And in 1997, he plunged headlong into Russian markets when they were among the frothiest on the planet.

Mr. Soros explains now that his concerns about the country were allayed by his confidence in the young reformers surrounding President

Boris N. Yeltsin.

But his largest single holding in Russia — a \$1 billion stake in Svyazinvest, a telecommunications concern — put him into partnership with Vladimir Potanin, the young chairman of one of Russia's biggest banks. Mr. Potanin is a member of a powerful and politically influential clique of Russian businessmen known as the "oligarchs." These men deftly exploited lucrative opportunities that came with privatization in Russia and used dubious tactics to snare control of huge industrial concerns.

"I bought it on the thesis that robber capitalism was ready to turn into legitimate capitalism," Mr. Soros said of his holding in Svyazinvest.

But the transition proved bumpy. In March, Mr. Soros lent the Russian Government several hundred million dollars to help it meet overdue pension payments. By the summer, as a corrupt and debt-ridden economy was tumbling toward insolvency, Mr. Soros was Russia's biggest individual investor. Besides his investment with Mr. Potanin — which he now describes as the worst of his career — he also held Russian stocks, bonds and rubles.

ALL of this hardly made Mr. Soros a disinterested observer when he sprang into action in mid-August.

On Aug. 13, a Thursday, Mr. Soros published a letter in *The Financial Times* saying that the meltdown in the Russian financial markets had "reached the terminal phase." He called for immediate action, including a devaluation and the institution of a currency board — a system fixing a nation's currency to the value of its richest trading partner. Such a plan would have taken away

Russian central bankers' discretion over monetary policy.

The letter helped prompt a panic in Russian markets — and invited a fresh bout of suspicion about Mr. Soros' motives. Later in the day, he issued a statement saying that he was not shorting the ruble, adding that his own portfolio "would be hurt by any devaluation." In his book, he added that he did not trade any Russian securities during the crisis.

By the weekend, Russia appeared headed for a default on its foreign and domestic debt. In a private meeting in Russia's White House on Sunday, Aug. 16, business leaders persuaded members of the Yeltsin administration to add a moratorium on debt repayment to a deep devaluation of the ruble that was to be announced the next day.

That announcement caused international investors to flee Russia, touching off a global financial panic and setting in motion the events that would lead, a month later, to the near-collapse and Government-orchestrated bailout of another big hedge fund, Long-Term Capital Management.

Mr. Soros says self-interest played no part in his financial diplomacy during the meltdown. Indeed, at the end of August, Mr. Soros' funds announced a \$2 billion loss in Russia.

But a former American official who has crossed paths with Mr. Soros said the speculator's many roles made it hard to weigh his advice. "The fact that one part of him is motivated by the philanthropy and another part by the investments makes it very difficult to deal with him," said the former official, who insisted on anonymity. "Sometimes the philanthropy dominates his motives. Sometimes investing does. But there's that duality, and you never know."



Part hard-nosed trader, part financial guru with access to world leaders, George Soros says he is able to keep his various roles separated.



A Power Broker's Planner

As Russia tumbled into financial and political disarray in August, George Soros was in day-to-day contact with key figures in both Moscow and Washington, according to the account he provides in his new book, "The

Crisis of Global Capitalism." In the photo above, an employee of a Moscow currency exchange posted prices on Aug. 17, when the ruble was devalued.

7

Friday

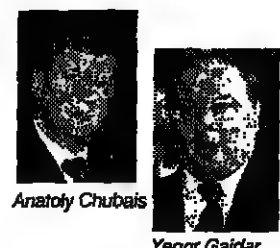
Mr. Soros calls Anatoly B. Chubais and Yegor T. Gaidar, former Government officials still close to President Boris N. Yeltsin, to propose a public-private bailout of Russia's debt-ridden Government. He says he is willing to put up \$500 million through Svyazinvest, a telecommunications company in which he has a large stake, and to help round up the rest of a \$10 billion fund.

Mr. Soros follows up with a call to David A. Lipton, the United States Under Secretary of the Treasury for international affairs, to sound him out on the idea. "Without my scheme, the Government will default with cataclysmic consequences," Mr. Soros writes.

10

Monday

Mr. Soros talks briefly with Mr. Lipton, left, who says the Clinton Administration has reached no conclusion about the Soros proposal.



Anatoly Chubais

Yegor Gaidar

11

Tuesday

Russian markets collapse. Trading on the stock market is temporarily suspended. Yields on Russian Treasury bills soar above 100 percent. Mr. Soros decides that his original plan is no longer sufficient; only a rescue package of \$15 billion or more can stabilize Russian markets.



13

Thursday

Mr. Soros publishes a letter in *The Financial Times*, below, declaring that immediate action is required to salvage Russia's economy. He proposes a 15 to 25 percent devaluation of the ruble, followed by the creation of a board linking the ruble to sounder currencies. Russian stocks open 15 percent lower. After the markets tumble, Mr. Soros issues a statement saying he is not shorting the ruble.

14

Friday

President Yeltsin vows that there will be no devaluation. Some major banks fail to meet payments to one another. Prices of United States Treasury bonds rise as investors flee to safety. Mr. Soros talks to Robert E. Rubin, the United States Treasury Secretary, to stress that the situation is urgent. He is approached on behalf of Sergei V. Kiriyenko, the Russian Prime Minister, about a \$500 million bridge loan. Mr. Soros rejects that idea, but offers to fly to Moscow for talks.

15

Saturday

On Echo Moskva radio, Mr. Soros says that there is no way he can benefit from a devaluation. He speaks several times to Mr. Gaidar.

17

Monday

The Kremlin effectively devalues the ruble by 35 percent and imposes a 90-day debt moratorium. Russian markets collapse.

18

Tuesday

Mr. Lipton calls, seeking "a technical explanation" of Russia's devaluation and debt moratorium. Mr. Soros writes a memo for the Treasury Department outlining his currency board proposal.

21

Friday

Mr. Soros says his investment funds are buyers of stocks and sellers of put options in the falling United States market. They have not traded any Russian securities during the entire period of market turmoil, he says.

23

Sunday

Mr. Yeltsin dismisses Prime Minister Kiriyenko, reinstating Viktor S. Chernomyrdin, left. "Now I can't predict it anymore," Mr. Soros writes.

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Corporations and Conscience

Americans are understandably ambivalent about the foreign entanglements of American business. Overseas operations can produce profits and support some jobs at home, but they can also help sustain abusive dictatorships and labor practices. In recent years companies like Nike and Unocal have embarrassed themselves with questionable overseas partnerships, but the problem extends far back in American industrial history.

The issue was highlighted last week in a Washington Post story on General Motors and Ford operations in Nazi Germany. The Post reported that after the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939, the chairman of G.M., Alfred P. Sloan, told a shareholder that the internal politics of Nazi Germany "should not be considered the business of the management of General Motors." The company plant in Germany was highly profitable. "We have no right to shut down the plant," Mr. Sloan wrote.

General Motors and Ford deny that they helped the Nazis or significantly benefited from forced labor. The Post article said American Ford and G.M. executives accepted medals from Hitler. A G.M. executive met with Hitler and participated in converting the German G.M. plant to military production in 1939 and 1940.

The German Ford and G.M. plants were the largest producers of trucks for the German Army, according to American Army reports. A 1945 Army report says American Ford helped Hitler acquire crucial strategic materials. Ford has found documents showing it profited slightly from its German plant during years when the plant used forced labor.

Ford and G.M. should give a thorough account of their actions in Germany, and pay appropriate compensation. But they were not the only American businesses to profit during the Third Reich.

The world has no contemporary equivalent of Hitler. But for the past decade, American companies have cozied up to the junta in Myanmar,

Afghanistan's Taliban, Central Asia's dictators, African kleptocrats and Colombia's military.

American corporations argue that they can be a positive force in repressive countries. This can be true. They often pay better than local companies, and bad publicity has spurred some corporations to sponsor health clinics and other good works. But these benefits are outweighed by the political support companies lend to bad regimes. Few ever criticize their hosts' policies. Governments take their presence as an American endorsement.

It is unrealistic to expect that corporations will refrain from trade or investment with bad governments. But they should hold themselves to some guidelines. Their own practices should not be abusive, even if local laws allow it. This means giving workers wages they can live on and good working conditions. They also should not collaborate with government repression. Apparel manufacturers in China and elsewhere have fired workers trying to organize unions. Unocal, which is a partner with Myanmar's Government in a gas pipeline project, is being sued in American courts for alleged use of forced labor and forced expulsion of villagers. Last week, Unocal did end its efforts to work with the Taliban on a pipeline through Afghanistan, primarily because oil prices are low.

The entanglements of oil, gas, mining and other natural resource companies with dictatorships are complex, as the businesses sometimes find themselves keeping repressive governments afloat. The activities of Shell, a British-Dutch company, in Nigeria brought in nearly half the nation's hard currency. Companies should use their tremendous power responsibly. Shell's image is still tainted by its failure to speak out strongly to prevent Nigeria's 1995 execution of nine environmental activists. Some regimes are so heinous that simply to continue making profits under them is reprehensible. Nazi Germany was surely one. Corporate officials are not only businessmen, they are citizens of the world.

The Impeachment Bully

The decision on whether to impeach or censure President Clinton is too important to be left to a ferocious partisan like Representative Tom DeLay, the Republican whip. But that is what the next Speaker, Robert Livingston, and his becalmed G.O.P. leadership team are doing. If they continue to tolerate Mr. DeLay's bullying, they will be allowing a single willful legislator to frustrate the public's desire to settle the Monica Lewinsky scandal by censuring President Clinton sternly for his lies and failures of leadership.

Mr. DeLay and the Republican hard-liners on impeachment know that both the public and a majority of House members favor a condemnation of Mr. Clinton instead of impeachment, unless new evidence emerges. But Mr. DeLay calculates that if he can prevent a censure vote, the House may vote to impeach rather than let Mr. Clinton go unpunished. But it is an insult to duty for any Congressional leader to ram through an impeachment vote by using parliamentary trickery of the kind more suitable to votes on highway bills.

Mr. DeLay is taking advantage of the fact that many Republicans of moderate views were infuriated by the President's hair-splitting answers to the Judiciary Committee's list of 81 questions. Even so,

Representative Peter King of Long Island, a Republican, is continuing to campaign for censure as the best way to punish Mr. Clinton and let Congress move on to other problems. He maintains that perhaps 20 Republicans prefer such a route, and if they stick together to oppose impeachment, it will likely fail. While Mr. DeLay is saying G.O.P. members are free to vote their consciences, he is working behind the scenes to make Republicans follow him, not Mr. King. The White House knows that if a vote were put off until next year, the President would be in a stronger position, and that may be why it is asking for more time now to present its defense. But Democrats who have called all year for a swift procedure are in no position now to call for postponement.

Mr. King has had the good sense to offer a censure measure that would require an admission by Mr. Clinton. He is thereby keeping alive chances of a negotiated settlement that would be stern enough in its condemnation of Mr. Clinton to attract support from both parties. But Mr. King cannot carry the fight alone. He needs help from senior Republicans, including Mr. Livingston, who have enough spine to stand up to Tom DeLay.

Editorial Observer/STEVEN R. WEISMAN

Chop! Slash! 'Psycho' Is Back, in Dying Color

For a Hollywood studio, redoing a classic is always a risk. For Universal Pictures, troubled by a recent series of flops, remaking "Psycho" was risky, and weird. After all, Gus Van Sant, the versatile director of "Good Will Hunting," has not merely remade Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 thriller. He has replicated it shot for shot, using the same script, the same mesmerizing score by Bernard Herrmann and the same Saul Bass titles. The only significant difference besides casting is that the new movie is in color rather than black and white.

If there is a precedent to Mr. Van Sant's odd enterprise, it can be found in a satiric story by Jorge Luis Borges, "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote." In it, an obscure novelist produces a masterpiece consisting entirely of parts of the original "Don Quixote." Analyzing the new work, scholars find many improvements over the 17th-century version, including subtle references to Nietzsche, William James and biographical details from Menard's life.

"Psycho" is one of the most influential and carefully analyzed movies ever made. Maybe Mr. Van Sant wants film buffs to have a Borgesian field day with the remake. No doubt Universal wants the movie to make money and mop up the red ink from "Meet Joe Black," "Babe: Pig in the City" and other recent box-office

The Hitchcock classic, redone, highlights the original's brilliance.

duds that led to the ouster of the studio chairman last week.

Whatever the director's intent, the audience reaction today cannot help but be different from that of 1960, in part because of the movies since then that were influenced by "Psycho." With its graphic depiction of sexual repression, perversion and madness, the first "Psycho" effectively proclaimed the end of the buttoned-up 1950's. But its scenes of violence are chaste by the standards of the slasher movies, crazed killers and shock value of today.

At the opening on Friday, I found the new version both off-putting and seductive, like a new production of a familiar opera. The dialogue, almost unaltered, seems dated, but the double entendres are funnier the second time around. Critics may dwell on the few minor changes in the new version. But over all, the images remind you what a monumental film achievement "Psycho" was. There are people, especially women, who still get nervous alone in the shower thinking of naked and vulnerable Janet Leigh, slashed to death in a 45-second scene

of horror that took Hitchcock seven days and 70 camera setups to film. In 1960, he appealed to audiences not to spill the movie's secrets, especially the female lead's murder halfway through the film. People remember it the way they remember where they were when President Kennedy was killed. Yet the new version features the shower murder (with Anne Heche) in its own lurid ads. When she undresses in that creepy motel, you wonder why she doesn't remember the original movie.

Yet the shock of "Psycho" remains potent. More than the acting, more than the story, more than the message, Hitchcock maintained that "Psycho" stirred feelings of terror, surprise and attraction by its camera work, technique and other elements of "pure cinema," carefully preserved in the remake. A few years after the movie, Hitchcock told Francois Truffaut, the French director, that "Psycho" was, more than his other movies, "a film that belongs to film makers, to you and me."

Different fans remember different enduring images. For some, it is the driving rain and slashing windshield-wiper blades that foreshadow the first murder. Others will always be haunted by the constant use of the double-image of mirrors, evoking the theme of split personality, or the way the opening voyeuristic shot through a hotel window prefigures Anthony

Pinochet Is Best Left to His Past

To the Editor:

Re "U.S. Will Release Files on Crimes Under Pinochet" (front page, Dec. 3):

As Deputy Assistant Secretary of State from 1977 to 1978, I directed the State Department's part in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's and the Justice Department's investigation of the murders of Orlando Letelier, a Chilean Ambassador under the Allende Government, and his American colleague, Ronni Moffitt. No one familiar with the evidence doubted that the act was part of a larger plan, approved by Gen. Augusto Pinochet, to kill prominent Chilean exiles.

Still, I have doubts about the wisdom of extraditing General Pinochet to Spain — or anywhere. Chile's reconciliation is more important than General Pinochet. Let him go home — indicted but untried — to fade into history and the hand of providence.

FRANK MCNEIL

Boca Raton, Fla., Dec. 1, 1998

To the Editor:

Re "U.S. Will Release Files on Crimes Under Pinochet" (front page, Dec. 3): Just before Gen. Augusto Pinochet's "miscalculated" trip to England, Chile had been portrayed as an example of a civilized nation that had left the sins of its past behind. It was marketed to the world as a country with a great entrepreneurial spirit and a strong economy — a model of transition to a democratic state.

General Pinochet was suddenly transformed from a dictator into a wise elder statesman. The crimes of the Pinochet regime — torture, hostage-taking, genocide and exile — were sidestepped in order not to upset the armed forces.

But are the Pinochet regime's crimes against humanity not a form of state terrorism?

Chileans deserve real justice. General Pinochet should be extradited to Spain. He and those involved in crimes against humanity should be held accountable by the international community.

SERGIO VASQUEZ

Hanover, N.H., Dec. 3, 1998

To the Editor:

Carroll Bogert (Op-Ed, Dec. 2) argues that Fidel Castro could be found guilty of crimes against humanity for the execution of "hundreds, if not thousands, of enemies."

However, Ms. Bogert fails to mention that the Spanish courts recently found there was insufficient evidence to even open an investigation regarding Fidel Castro's conduct.

Moreover, Ms. Bogert ignores the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in aiding General Pinochet's secret police in the 1970's when more than 3,900 people were murdered ("U.S. Will Release Files on Crimes Under Pinochet," front page, Dec. 2)

To uphold the Pinochet principle by

minimizing or ignoring United States crimes will hardly lead to universal justice.

MICHAEL RATNER

New York, Dec. 2, 1998

To the Editor:

The State Department's tepid response to the arrest of Gen. Augusto Pinochet (news article, Dec. 1) reflects its concern that support of General Pinochet's extradition will create legal precedents that could penalize the United States for its support of dictators like Indonesia's President Suharto, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier of Haiti. Like General Pinochet, these rulers were at one time backed by the United States, despite the fact that they had committed human rights violations.

We should encourage our policy makers to learn that indefensible past actions are best confronted by making amends — in this case, to the Chilean people.

VIVIAN STROMBERG

New York, Dec. 1, 1998

The writer is executive director of

Madre, a human rights group.



Lenora Shapiro

To the Editor:

Carroll Bogert (Op-Ed, Dec. 2) asserts that if Gen. Augusto Pinochet is extradited to Spain, despots everywhere should take note. If so, she wonders, "could George Bush be prosecuted in a third country for the deaths of Iraqi civilians in the Gulf war?" She concludes that according to the Geneva Conventions "the deaths of ordinary Iraqis do not necessarily constitute a war crime."

It's nice to know that if an American President is charged with crimes against humanity after leading a war with a remarkably low ratio of civilian-to-combatant deaths against a tyrant aggressor, his acts won't necessarily constitute a war crime.

Let's hope the definition of international crimes is revised so that President Bush's accomplishments necessarily cannot lead to his prosecution.

JOSEPH C. SHAPIRO

Ridgefield, Conn., Dec. 2, 1998

Put Caring for Students Ahead of Testing

To the Editor:

As a parent of a fourth grader and as someone who is feeling and witnessing the incredible stress created by the upcoming new English Language Arts test, I would beg our state and city education officials to take heed of Howard Gardner's comment that we "must proceed cautiously before we place students' minds and hearts at risk with tests of dubious quality whose meaning can be over-interpreted and whose consequences can be devastating" (Op-Ed, Dec. 4).

It seems to me that the money used to develop this test would have been much better spent on raising teacher salaries and reducing class sizes. But that would mean really caring about the children, and that does not appear to be what motivates those running our state and city educational systems.

SYLVIA WERTHEIMER

New York, Dec. 4, 1998

To the Editor:

Re "What Do Tests Test?" (Op-Ed, Dec. 4): While the education industry groans about standardized testing, the rest of the world uses it for what it is: the only objective criterion for measuring competence. Certainly it is not perfect, but it is the best that we have.

Fourth graders have always taken exams: spelling, math and so forth. My children cried when they got a failing grade, but they tried harder next time. None sustained devastating consequences. Educators have always explained away their failures: the tests failed to test, or their students were somehow special.

Students are graduating from public schools who can barely read and write. Finding out what their skills are in the fourth grade may finally bring some accountability to education.

ALAN J. ZIMMERMAN, M.D.

Lido Beach, N.Y., Dec. 4, 1998

To the Editor:

Howard Gardner's useful Op-Ed article (Dec. 4) seems to imply that we can, in school, promote a "love of learning, respect for peers and good citizenship." But well before entering school, 99 percent have taught themselves a zillion things without any formal training: that is, we are a learning animal on the day of birth.

And as far as respect is concerned, in most schools the child is punished for talking and is forced to compete against everybody else.

And finally, since passivity, obedience, memorizing, regurgitating and deference to authority are what the typical school rewards, Dr. Gardner is kidding himself if he thinks this will promote an active, involved, curious, newspaper-reading and questioning citizenry.

ROBERT E. KAY, M.D.

Philadelphia, Dec. 4, 1998

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Why Not Yell Out Starr's Innocence?

To the Editor:

Re "Judge Finds Starr's Aides Did Not Abuse Lewinsky" (news article, Dec. 4):

I was interested to see that after months of front-page reporting about alleged prosecutorial misconduct, the article detailing Judge Norma Holloway Johnson's rejection of accusations against counsel, and his aides regarding their treatment of Monica S. Lewinsky was tucked away toward the back of the first news section.

I would have thought that word of Mr. Starr's innocence was at least as significant as unsubstantiated accusations to the contrary by the White House.

MARGARET MCGIRR

Greenwich, Conn., Dec. 4, 1998

Just Don't Get Caught

To the Editor:

Anthony Lewis ("The Starr Trapp," column, Dec. 1) says that Francis D. Carter, Monica Lewinsky's lawyer, would never have filed Ms. Lewinsky's false affidavit had he known that the independent counsel, Kenneth W. Starr, was aware of its perjurious nature.

Mr. Lewis should know that the jails are full of people who would not have committed their crimes had they known they would be caught. By that logic, all speeders should be let off the hook if they were never informed that a state trooper was around the corner.

Mr. Starr may be an overly aggressive prosecutor, but President Clinton is the true "menace to our constitutional order" as he spits in the face of the law and time again.

GREGG NELSON

New York, Dec. 1, 1998

A Question of Ethics

To the Editor:

The opening paragraph of a Dec. 4 news article, "Judge Finds Starr's Aides Did Not Abuse Lewinsky," reports that "Kenneth W. Starr's prosecutors did not forbid Monica S. Lewinsky to call her lawyer when they first confronted her at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Jan. 18, and in fact gave her several opportunities to call anyone she chose, a Federal district judge concluded in a finding unsealed this week."

However, the 10th paragraph says that "the judge did note that prosecutors began talks with Ms. Lewinsky at the Ritz-Carlton meeting without obtaining her lawyer's permission, in violation of Justice Department regulations."

A recent poll by the Media Studies Center found that only 18 percent of the respondents rated the ethical standards of newspaper reporters as "high" or "very high." Given the way the Clinton-Starr story has been covered, one can understand these feelings.

CHARLES EDWARDS

Longboat Key, Fla., Dec. 4, 1998

Act of Intimidation

To the Editor:

Re "Judge Finds Starr's Aides Did Not Abuse Lewinsky" (news article, Dec. 4):

Judge Norma Holloway Johnson's ruling is quite amazing. If a 24-year-old woman is suddenly approached simultaneously by a group of prosecutors and agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, this is itself an act of intimidation. Ms. Lewinsky should have been allowed to call her lawyer immediately and speak to him privately.

MARTIN W. TOMBERG

Cos Cob, Conn., Dec. 4, 1998

Gas Prices Unaffected

To the Editor:

William Rando ("Rockefeller's Revenge," Op-Ed, Dec. 3) claims that the Exxon-Mobil merger will not harm consumers. This is unfounded.

The consolidation of the oil industry over the last several years has already sharply reduced competition in refined-product markets. In such an uncompetitive market, gasoline prices are fast to rise and slow to fall.

Oil companies are not social-service agencies. Long-term profit maximization is their objective. Such mergers are designed to improve corporate, not consumer welfare.

EDWIN S. ROTHSCHILD

McLean, Va., Dec. 3, 1998

Impact on Democracy

To the Editor:

Re "Companies Used to Getting Their Way" (Business Day, Dec. 4): I wonder if there will be room in the inevitable antitrust debate stemming from the Exxon-Mobil merger to discuss the impact on democracy of such a large multinational corporation.

Fiscally, the new company would be bigger than most countries, yet it would not be directly accountable to the people it would affect. It would have vast sums of money for lobbying; as you report, "by themselves, Exxon and Mobil have a combined total of 15 full-time lobbyists on their payrolls in Washington and employ other Washington lawyers and lobbying firms as well."

Can such a corporation just be too big?

ROBERT GARISTO

Bellport, N.Y., Dec. 2, 1998

سكرا من الاميل

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Our Retro Patriotism

WASHINGTON
If only we could order self-sacrifice from the Sharper Image catalogue. If only it could arrive by U.P.S. next-day, along with the exfoliating foot cream and the portable shoulder and neck massager and the designer dog-biscuit mixer.

Your very own landing on Omaha Beach, just \$3,999.99, for the man who has everything. Or maybe just some of the sand, for \$39.99.

Usually, we baby boomers are content fooling around with the accessories and amenities of our life style. But every so often, we get that queasy feeling that we have become too much like ourselves — indulged too much, challenged too little. We are overmarketed, oversophisticated, overspun, overspinning. We need a shot of medicinal grandeur.

In 1992, it was our turn. We put a primary specimen of ourselves in the White House. And what did it amount to? A marathon fight over foreplay and targeted cuts. Not exactly an auspicious debut for the Age of Aquarius.

Now we have decided to give a grateful nod to the sacrifices our parents made to create a world where yuppies can agonize over whether to install a home gym, a home spa, a home casino, a wine cellar, a smoking room or a \$15,000 gas plasma high-definition TV with a 160-degree viewing angle.

Retro patriotism has become the hottest trend since Martha Stewart introduced the perception of molding. Surrounded by politicians baked in hypocrisy, self-pity and self-indulgence, we yearn for those old virtues — heroism, duty, honor, loyalty.

Enter Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks. They are following up their "Private Ryan" success by making a 13-part HBO mini-series based on the Stephen Ambrose book "Band of Brothers," about a group of World

Honor — hotter than aromatherapy.

War II paratroopers. The big Christmas movie is Terrence Malick's "The Thin Red Line," based on James Jones's novel about the Allied campaign on Guadalcanal. Peter Jennings's new coffee-table book, "The Century," features a raft of grainy black-and-white pictures of that era before we get to those who have made a mark at the end of the century: Oliver North, Bill Gates, Dr. Jack Kevorkian. A top Washington Post editor, Rick Atkinson, is leaving his job to write three books on World War II called "The Liberation Trilogy." Tom Brokaw has written a paean to Americans who lived through the Depression and the Second World War called "The Greatest Generation."

"Their generation didn't fumble it," Mr. Brokaw says. "And they had such an extraordinary generosity of spirit, whether it was rebuilding their enemies, taking care of each other, not doing any of this kind of public self-examination."

Asked how his subjects from the strong, silent generation regarded their children from the weak, chatty one, the NBC anchor replied: "They're bemused. They think there are too many toys, too much play time, too little concentration on what really counts."

He predicts that Americans will engage in "a huge rejection of slickness and packaging. There has been a lot of artificiality in both political camps. The World War II generation was all about authenticity. Whatever else happened in their lives, they faced death on a daily basis. And that is something that cannot be duplicated in a week-end white-water rafting trip."

Boomers came of age promoting big things — civil rights, social justice, feminism, an end to an unjust war, an end to a crooked Presidency. But now we seem bogged down in petty things. And cultural recycling — from "The Parent Trap" to "Psycho" to World War II.

Now in the slough of reading glasses and Peppercorn AC, boomers fear missing the chance to test their mettle. Our idea of warfare is opposition research. We're nagged by the suspicion that we're just material boys and material girls.

Historians will record that our generation's contribution was to be the generation that worried about its contribution. Our parents are growing old and dying, and we feel small. But in fact, our smallness is just our latest conceit.

If you hurry, you can still have Neiman Marcus deliver before Christmas a British Ferret Mark I armored scout car. "Coming exclusively to Neiman Marcus from the British Army Reserves, the Ferret ... carries a crew of two; one or two 'friendly' people may be added to the commander's seat area for cruising around the ranch. ... Used by more than 30 countries: 1953 — Desert Storm. \$25,000."



Stop, in the Name of the Law

By Jeffrey Rosen

WASHINGTON
After a 10-month investigation, the Lewinsky affair has come to this.

The House Judiciary Committee is on the verge of recommending the impeachment of the President by a strictly partisan vote. The Republican members are presenting their dilemma as an agonizing conflict between upholding the rule of law and succumbing to mob rule. It shouldn't matter, they argue, that the Senate is unlikely to convict the President or that the people want him to remain in office. The President must be impeached for symbolic reasons, to punish him for his transgressions and to assure the nation that no man is above the law.

This may be a rhetorically effective pose, but in legal and constitutional terms it is nonsense. And another independent counsel investigation that ended in Washington last week shows why.

After a jury rejected all 30 of his charges against Mike Espy, the former Agriculture Secretary, Donald Smaltz, the independent counsel in the case, sounded very much like the House Republicans. "The actual indictment of a public official may in fact be as great a deterrent as a conviction of that official," he said in an attempt to justify his decision to prosecute Mr. Espy for accepting trivial gifts.

Mr. Smaltz added that because "the appearance of impropriety can be as damning as bribery is to public confidence," even unsuccessful prosecutions are necessary to insure that "the ends of justice" are served.

In fact, Mr. Smaltz had it exactly backward. His monomaniacal investigation showed that when prosecu-

What the Espy verdict should tell the House.

tors single out public officials and indict them on highly technical charges for which no ordinary citizen would ever be punished, juries tend to acquit.

But in addition to its financial and personal costs, a purely symbolic prosecution like Mr. Smaltz's subverts respect for the rule of law. It forces Americans to confront the spectacle of a self-aggrandizing prosecutor using the criminal code in a way that looks personal and partisan, rather than being guided by his fellow citizens' collective judgment about what kinds of transgressions deserve to be punished. If House Republicans fail to heed the lessons of the Espy investigation, our faith in the rule of law may be shaken in ways that we can only begin to imagine.

A basic requirement of the rule of law is that prosecutors, like judges, must be impartial. They can't decide to pursue cases based on personal sympathy or dislike for one party or another. This is why criminal law, when it functions properly, has a powerful democratic component. In deciding how to spend limited resources, no ordinary prosecutor would bring an indictment without being sensitive to whether a jury, and the community at large, thinks the crime serious enough to merit punishment.

As the Espy investigation vividly illustrated, the independent counsel law removes this crucial democratic

Jeffrey Rosen is an associate professor of law at George Washington University.

influence on prosecutorial discretion. By creating prosecutors with unlimited resources, whose reputations depend on bringing down their targets, the law encourages them to dig for evidence of hyper-technical transgressions in the hope that something may stick.

These perverse incentives were embodied by Mr. Smaltz, who, in a

A good prosecutor knows when to give up.

seemingly obsessive effort to charge Mr. Espy with something more serious than receiving a few football tickets, spent \$17 million and dispatched F.B.I. agents across the country in a vain effort to prove that Mr. Espy had been bribed by the chairman of Tyson's Foods. Although he failed to find convincing evidence, he indicted Mr. Espy anyway, claiming that it didn't matter whether Mr. Espy had granted any favors in return for the small gifts he received.

Unconstrained by democratic accountability, other independent counsels have suffered from similar lapses in judgment. When Lawrence Walsh, the Iran-contra prosecutor, indicted Oliver North for lying to Congress, a Washington jury refused to convict on the grounds that Mr. North was being used as a scapegoat by his superiors. And if Kenneth Starr were to prosecute President Clinton for perjury or obstruction of justice after he left office, it's hard to imagine that a Washington jury would convict him.

Although the repudiation of Mr. Smaltz may be the final nail in the coffin of the independent counsel statute, House Republicans are now on the verge of repeating his error on a historic scale.

There is in Washington at the moment a cavalier attitude toward the impeachment drama. "This Specter of Impeachment Just Isn't Scary," a Washington Post headline said last week, because even if the House votes articles of impeachment, the Senate is likely to acquit.

This shortsighted view dangerously underestimates the constitutional costs of forcing the second Senate impeachment trial in American history. For one thing, even if it ended in acquittal, the trial would provoke widespread anger at Congress for having prolonged an ugly and childish spectacle that the people have repeatedly instructed their representatives to bring to a close. More important, it would encourage cynicism about the rule of law by showing how easily prosecutors can manipulate criminal charges for partisan ends.

Although impeachments are inevitably political decisions, they should be political in the broad rather than the parochial sense. To be accepted as legitimate, articles of impeachment must have the support of a bipartisan majority in Congress and the country. By ignoring the funda-

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks. For further information, call (212) 556-1831.

In America

BOB HERBERT

Justice Betrayed

AUSTIN, Tex.

Most of the suspects hauled into the treacherous confines of the criminal justice system are guilty. They are not all treated fairly, but for the most part they have committed the crimes for which they are prosecuted.

But some are innocent. And the system — a huge, grinding bureaucracy dominated by politicians and other officials anxious to show they are tougher than Dirty Harry — does a terrible job of identifying and protecting them.

As a prosecutor in New Jersey once told me: "I can't go to the voters and tell them the evidence is ambiguous. When a crime is committed, somebody has got to pay. Most of the time we get the right guy."

Prosecutors want to hear the word, "guilty." They don't want to hear, "You've got the wrong man, or the wrong woman, or the wrong kid."

So you get cases like that of Lacreasha Murray, an 11-year-old girl who was arrested and subsequently tried, convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison for the beating death of a 2-year-old girl, despite the absence of any witnesses or physical evidence linking her to the crime, and despite the strong likelihood that she was physically incapable of inflicting the fatal injury, namely the splitting of the child's liver.

The Times, in an editorial Friday on the Sam Sheppard case, referred to the "evil of a legal system when it is blind to innocence." In that case, despite DNA evidence indicating another man killed Dr. Sheppard's wife, the prosecution continues to fight efforts to exonerate Dr. Sheppard. "Rarely," the editorial said, "do prosecutors admit that devastating mistakes were made even in cases decades old."

Lacreasha's first conviction was overturned by the trial judge, John Dietz, who said, "I had a question as to whether justice was done." In the period between the first and second trials, the prosecution produced an "expert," Dr. Vincent DiMaio, who looked at photos of the dead child, Jayla Belton, and determined that certain bruises "matched" the tread on tennis shoes worn by Lacreasha.

No mention of the tennis shoes had been made at the first trial. None whatsoever. Prosecutors acknowledged during interviews on Thursday that they had no idea the tennis shoes might have been involved until Dr. DiMaio declared, "Here is your murder weapon."

The doctor's testimony at the second trial was crucial because officials at the state crime lab said they could see no match and declined to testify.

It would later be revealed that Dr. DiMaio's idea of a match differs from that of the average person. In a letter to Keith Hampton, the lawyer who is handling Lacreasha's appeal, Dr. DiMaio explained what he meant by a match. The letter is quoted in Mr. Hampton's appellant's brief.

"While a match may be unique, as in the case of a fingerprint, it does not have to be," Dr. DiMaio wrote. "The analogy that I gave was that if a convenience store was robbed by two individuals described as 'white

When truth matters less than the verdict.

males,' then both Mr. White [a colleague of Mr. Hampton's] and you 'matched' that description because you both were white males."

Got that? If two white guys held up a store, any two white guys would constitute a "match" of the holdup-men. This is the kind of kindling that blazes into miscarriages of justice.

The jurors were never made aware of Dr. DiMaio's incredibly broad definition of a match. When I asked Ronald Earle, the District Attorney of Travis County, and several of his assistants if they had known about Dr. DiMaio's analogy, they expressed puzzlement. They apparently had never heard it. One of the assistants continues to refer to the sneakers and the bruises as "a perfect match."

I recently asked Judge Dietz if, after presiding over two trials, he was convinced that Lacreasha Murray was guilty. There was a long pause. And then the judge said he didn't think he should answer because the case is still on appeal.

He acknowledged, however, that the case bothered him. He noted, among other things, that Derrick Shaw, Jayla's stepfather, "was not a paragon of virtue, and neither was the mother." Referring to the fact that Jayla weighed only about 20 pounds, the judge said: "It wasn't just that she was small. I just don't think she was being cared for very well. But anyway."

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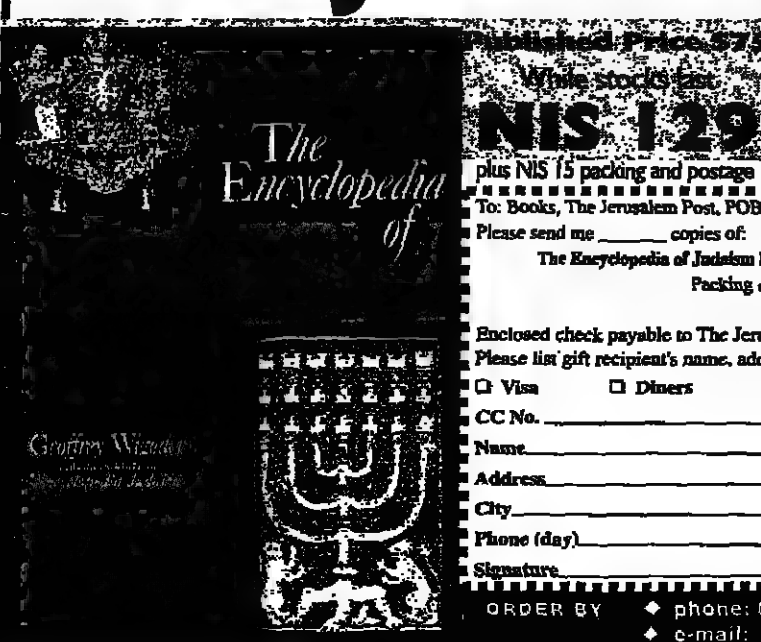
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THE ARTS

In European Film, Fresh Faces, Familiar Names

By TED LOOS

FOR the Italian actor Alessandro Gassman, taking the lead role in "Steam: The Turkish Bath" was the riskiest — and maybe the smartest — move of his career. Mr. Gassman plays a married Italian designer who goes to Istanbul to take care of his aunt's estate. While there, he discovers the enticing culture of the Turkish bath — and with it, the realization that he is gay.

His role in "Steam," a thoughtful and elegiac film by Ferzan Özpetek, must have surprised some fans, since Mr. Gassman was best known for a successful series of light comedies in recent years. But his 76-year-old father was not shocked; in fact, he encouraged the venture. After all, the father is Vittorio Gassman, a fixture on the Italian stage and screen for more than 50 years, and an actor who is also pushing the boundaries of his craft; in 1994 he mounted a notoriously expensive stage version of "Moby Dick" that toured Europe.

"My father is one of my strongest fans," said Mr. Gassman, 33, on the telephone from his home in Rome. "He's my counselor." The fatherly advice obviously paid off. "Steam," which opened in New York on Nov. 25, set attendance records in Turkey (fueled by controversy over its gay theme) and was a surprising success at the box office in Italy. Now the actor finds himself in the running for all kinds of roles.

Mr. Gassman is only one of a new generation of European actors and directors in their 20's and early 30's who are following their more famous elders in a family business in which both success and failure occur under a spotlight. Though these issues are familiar to American scions of the Sheen, Bridges, Fonda and Douglas families, in the smaller and more insular world of European cinema the extremes are magnified.

Though it may be even easier to get started — several European actors said that they had got their first role, as children, through family connections — the work of their parents looms even larger in the public mind. And that makes it harder for the sons and daughters to become stars in their own right.

The Gassmans have acted together three times (most recently they finished filming a Mafia-comedy set partly in New York), but the younger Mr. Gassman says it's important to keep some creative distance from his father. "My father is famous in the theater for playing Othello," he said. "If I was offered the role of Othello, I would ask to play Iago."

Mr. Gassman added that the sons and daughters of Italian film stars who had become successful did so "not by copying their parents, but for having their own personality."

"Those who tried to clone their parents did not succeed," he said. Of all the European actors working today, none can claim more illustrious lineage than Chiara Mastroianni. With Catherine Deneuve and Marcello Mastroianni as parents, she might seem to have a predestined career. But it is also daunting, since her parents became icons when European film was at its apex of influence.

"Here, no matter what, journalists will ask me about my parents until the day I die," said Ms. Mastroianni, 26, on the telephone from her apartment in Paris. "Sometimes I wish I had worked in America, because I feel it's more common there. In Europe, it's very difficult for people to forget your parents when they are so famous."

She pointed to the fact that some American sons of stars, including Michael Douglas, had become better known than their fathers.

For directors, the stakes are not quite as high, since audiences are less likely to choose a movie based on the director's name.

But the first-time feature film director Jake Scott, son of the British director Ridley Scott and nephew of the director Tony Scott, said that the challenges were different in Europe,

where fans and people in the industry truly revere the elders of cinema.

"In America, they're more open-minded about it," said the boyish-looking Mr. Scott, 33, surrounded by black videotape boxes in his London office. "Nepotism is an accepted part of the business. Here you have to prove yourself a little more."

But he also acknowledged that the big-business nature of Hollywood film leaves little room for failure, even for those with the right last name. "I get the sense that in America, if you screw up, they'll drop you like a ton of lead."

For Ms. Mastroianni, entry into the business was made easier by acting with her mother in her first film, "Ma Saison Préférée" (1993). Ms. Mastroianni was brought up by Ms. Deneuve, since her parents split when she was 3 years old, but she remained very close to her father, who died in 1996, and acted with him (in a small role) in Robert Altman's 1994 "Ready to Wear."

"I was afraid of disappointing him," she said of the scenes with her father. "To tell your parents you want to do the same things can be tough, but when you happen to work with them it's even worse. But it went very well. On the set, we were just actors working together."

The actress, who has a 2-year-old son with her boyfriend, said she would be wary if her own child announced his intention to become an actor. That echoes her parents' concerns. "The first thing they advised me was not to be an actress," said Ms. Mastroianni. "They were completely against it, but I didn't listen."

Both parents were aware that they had unusually charmed careers. "When my mother started, she hit the top right away," said Ms. Mastroianni. "She arrived like a meteor."

Part of the difference between the generations stems from the diminished position of European film on the worldwide market. Ms. Deneuve was able to become an international star as well as a French one. Now,

A new generation of actors emerges from the shadow of their parents.

French and Italian movies are distributed on a much smaller scale in the United States than they were 30 years ago, and international stars are even more likely to come through the Hollywood studio system.

Though Ms. Mastroianni said she didn't usually consult with her mother about whether to take a role, she did talk with her when considering Gregg Araki's "Nowhere," a notably bleak and violent film. Usually the actresses, who are both based in Paris, don't discuss the details of their craft. Ms. Mastroianni said that when they chatted at the end of separate on-set workdays, "we're more likely to talk about other people's movies."

Both Ms. Mastroianni and Charlotte Gainsbourg, another offspring of two well-known parents in French film, have chosen edgier, more intellectual projects that would be called independent in this country. So far, neither has made a serious attempt to cross over to Hollywood.

"Maybe being in the second generation teaches you to be even more demanding of the quality of your films," said Ms. Mastroianni, whose next film, "The Letter," is by the veteran Portuguese director Manoel De Oliveira.

Overall, European film budgets are small by American standards, and the gulf between commercial films and art films is much smaller. "In France, you can't really talk of independent and non-independent films," said Ms. Gainsbourg, 27, speaking on the telephone from a



Chiara Mastroianni is the daughter of Marcello Mastroianni and Catherine Deneuve. "Journalists will ask me about my parents until the day I die."

location shoot in France.

Ms. Gainsbourg, who has earned a reputation as one of Europe's best young actresses, is the daughter of the French actor, director and singer-songwriter Serge Gainsbourg and the English-born actress and singer Jane Birkin. In their heyday of the 1960's and 70's, her parents were staples of French gossip columns for their heavy-breathing song "Je t'aime."

Like many film scions, she got her first role the old-fashioned way. "The luck I had was that my mother knew the casting director, and he happened to be looking for an actress my age," she said. (In fact, the film "Paroles et Musique" also starred Ms. Deneuve, illustrating the tight-knit nature of French film.)

Though she is best known in this country for starring in Franco Zeffirelli's sedate "Jane Eyre" (1996), many of Ms. Gainsbourg's roles have been provocative. At age 13, she starred in a drama about father-daughter incest, "Charlotte Forever," starring and directed by the legendarily scandalous Mr. Gainsbourg, who died in 1991.

At the time, it was a true cause célèbre — one scene showed the Gainsbourgs in bed together — but Ms. Gainsbourg weathered the furor stoically. "I understood what we did and what people said about it," she said. "I wasn't shocked, because I knew what my father had in his head creatively."

Partly because of that experience, the actress now takes pains to guard her privacy. "My parents loved being in the magazines and having their private lives exposed," said Ms. Gainsbourg. "I understand it, but I am the complete opposite."

For Jake Scott, nepotism is a more mundane, day-to-day affair. He is a partner in Ridley Scott Associates, the advertising company founded by his father before he became known as the director of "Alien," "Blade Runner" and "Thelma and Louise." (Though British, the elder Mr. Scott has long been entrenched as a Hollywood director.) The younger Mr. Scott has directed many commercials and music videos, and won an MTV Award for R.E.M.'s "Everybody Hurts" video in 1994.

"It's never been an obstacle before. It's only opened doors," said Mr. Scott of his family name. His first feature film, "Plunkett and MaCleane," is due out next year. "But

lately I've become aware that I'm on trial — by myself. I've watched my father and my uncle make some very fine films. In making this one, I realized I wanted it to be as good as theirs. It's not. It couldn't be, as my first film."

MR. SCOTT said he had had no intention of entering the family business at first. "I thought I was going to become a painter," he said. "Growing up in that kind of family, it was pretty well all-consuming, and I was less inclined to do it."

For his first film, Mr. Scott made sure it was produced without help from his father. But some progeny actually want to become more closely identified with their famous par-

ents as they get older.

Asia Argento, the 23-year-old daughter of the Italian horror director Dario Argento, has already acted in 20 films. Though next year she will be seen on screen in Abel Ferrara's "New Rose Hotel" and Michael Radford's "B. Monkey," her next project is working on her feature directorial debut, a film produced by her father.

After having done seven films, she first appeared in front of her father's camera at age 18. She said she had always been inspired by the example of her father, who is a cult figure in his home country for films like 1977's "Suspiria." (Her mother, Daria Nicolodi, is primarily a stage actress, and not as well known.)

The film that Ms. Argento is writing and directing, "The Faceless," is

not exactly a horror movie, but it displays her father's penchant for Gothic extremes. It tells the story of two soldiers who lose their faces in a war and the woman who believes one of them may be her husband.

Once the film is completed, Ms. Argento said that she wanted to continue to work mostly in Italian film, and especially with her father. For some in the second generation of European film, exploring their chosen art form also affords a rare opportunity to create a family album on celluloid. "I've had this great chance in life doing something eternal with someone of my own blood," she said on the telephone from her home in Rome. "When we're not here anymore, our movies will be."

CONDENSED BOOKS

BY MARJORIE RICHTER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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'25% drop in Jan.-Sept. building starts

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

The number of housing starts decreased 25 percent to 30,240 during the first nine months of the year from the same period in 1997, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The bureau's report is the latest in a string of data pointing to a slowdown in the construction industry, which is seen as being a key indicator of the country's economic performance.

The private sector accounted for

22,835 of the housing starts, while the remainder is in state building projects.

In the public sector the decline was 40%, with an 18% fall in the private sector.

The third quarter did, however, see a 12% increase in building starts over the second quarter, according to the bureau.

April-June starts totaled 9,005, while there were 10,085 during the third quarter.

The main reason for this was a 16% rise in starts in the private sec-

tor. As opposed to the quarter-on-quarter data, there was a considerable fall in building starts in the third quarter this year, as against the equivalent three months in 1997.

During the 1997 period, starts reached 13,670, some 35% higher than this year.

Building completions also declined during the third quarter, down 15% to 39,000. Here too the main drop was in the public sector (down 20% to 13,530), while the private sector saw a 12% fall to

25,470.

The decline during the third quarter alone was 11% compared to the second quarter and 30% against the same three months last year.

The entire housing stock under construction during the period stood at 78,600, compared to 92,100 - a downturn of some 17%.

Of this total, 49,600 were private sector ventures.

In terms of area, all the categories also show sharp declines. Building starts covered 6.4 million square meters during the first nine months,

down 22% from 8.6 million sq.m. last year.

Of this area, 74% was destined for the housing market, with the remainder for business and civic use. Total construction at the end of September covered 16.3 million sq.m., while the figure was 19.4 million sq.m. a year earlier.

The Construction and Housing Ministry said 50,000 building starts are needed annually to meet demand, but according to investment house Ilanot Batucha only 37,000-40,000 are required.

Three groups bid to supply DBS services

By JUDY SIEGEL

Three consortiums yesterday applied for Communications Ministry licenses to offer digital broadcast satellite services to the public.

The applications were sent to Zvi Hauser, the lawyer who heads the ministry body for arranging public broadcasts. He and his colleagues are responsible for ensuring that the applicants meet the standards for issuing a DBS license.

Hauser said he expected his examination of the applicants to be completed quickly, before the end of 1998, so that DBS services may begin in the middle of next year.

One contender is a group headed by Bezeq (holding 37.5 percent of the shares), Eurocom Communications (24.16%), Gilat Satellites (19.17%) and Lidan Investments (19.17%).

The second group comprises Jerusalem Capital Studios, Ayalon Herzikovich, Cial and Poalim Investments.

The third consortium competing for a DBS license is represented by Arif Ben-Hamud and Prosper Abitbul.

Last week the High Court of Justice dismissed the cable TV companies' objections to DBS on the grounds that satellite-borne TV programming would "unfairly compete" with their own services.

The Bezeq group claimed that - if licensed - it would offer customers only those TV stations they want to receive (at present, cable TV companies offer only a set menu of programs).

Communications Minister Amior Livnat said competition in TV transmissions would bring down prices, expand offerings and improve service.



Tribute to oil
Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman greets Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein at an event in Jerusalem last night honoring the role of oil in Israel's economic growth. At left is Alexander Godovich, director of the Aviv medical supply company, whose company was awarded first prize in a contest to determine the most successful firms that are run by or employ oil.

Marriott looking to become market leader here

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Marriott International hotel chain is looking to expand its activity in Israel. Franz Fersckhe, vice president of Marriott Europe, told the *Jerusalem Post*.

The chain, which started operating in Israel last March, currently

franchises hotels in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Nazareth.

Fersckhe came here for the conversion of the Ramada Hotel in Tel Aviv to a Renaissance hotel and for the launch of the new Marriott Nazareth. He said that, despite the current political situation, the chain is interested in strengthening its position in the local market.

"We are interested in becoming a market leader within the Israeli hotel market," Fersckhe said. "There are certainly some discussions at this point to expand more into Israel." He added, however, that most of the negotiations are preliminary.

The hotel executive said that local industry sources have already approached the company

and the chain believes Israel is a good market for upscale hotel products. He added that Marriott is not worried by regional politics, saying that when looking into its activities here "political reasons did not have a strong influence."

The hospitality chain started operating here after completing in March its \$1 billion acquisition of the Renaissance Hotel Group. Last month the chain announced the opening of the Marriott Nazareth, which is the first luxury hotel in this favorite venue for Christian pilgrims.

The hotel, which is owned by HEI group of Connecticut, was built at an investment of some \$29 million. Fersckhe says the hotel will not only host pilgrims, but aims to attract businesspeople visit-

ing high-tech companies in the North.

He added, however, that the chain has invested much effort in marketing the year 2000 celebrations to tourists in Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

"We believe that we will have enough business during this year," Fersckhe said. "There is certainly a great interest. Indications of our marketing people are very optimistic."

He said that, despite the crisis in the tourism industry, the chain's hotels in Israel are fully booked most of the time. The chain employs some 800 workers here. Marriott operates or franchises 1,300 hotels worldwide with about 275,000 rooms.

Givot Olam predicts large oil find is near

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Givot Olam Oil Exploration Limited Partnership expects to announce a large find of oil near Rosh Ha'ayin tomorrow or Wednesday.

The oil exploration company is to re-test a small 15 meter area of an existing well, Meged-2, tomorrow using a new technique called acidization. If they discover oil here, the company believes that it will indicate a large supply of oil at a 300 meter site nearby.

On the basis of these results, the company plans to hold a public offering at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange on December 17 to raise NIS16.8 million in capital to drill an additional well, Meged-3.

Givot Olam began drilling for oil near Kfar Saba in 1993 after seismic data indicated a large oil reserve in the area. The well, Meged-2, reached a depth of 5,200 meters and the company

managed to produce a number of gallons of sweet light Arabian oil from a silurian source. This, according to Laurence Becker, director of Givot Olam, is considered one of the best quality oils and was thought not to exist in Israel.

The company has spent the last three years analyzing the find and believes that it is an extension of the Palmira Rift, which runs through Syria, and is a rich oil producing vein.

Recent attempts were made to raise money to drill the third well, but they failed according to Becker, because of the depressed world investment scene and the declining cost of oil.

Instead the company has spent the last five weeks preparing for a second test at the Meged-2 site at a depth of between 4,365 to 4,380 meters.

The cost of this project is \$1 million.

"If we find oil here it will be part of a reservoir that reaches 300 meters in thickness at the Meged-3 site. That's what we think will be oil rich," said Becker.

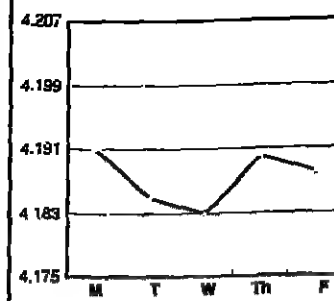
Independent petroleum analysts, Forrest Garb Associates of Dallas, said that according to the figures provided by Givot Olam, there should be some one billion barrels of recoverable oil at the site, at a conservative estimate.

"We have done a lot of research and hopefully on Tuesday we will hit oil," said Becker. "You can never be sure until the dig, but we are very optimistic."

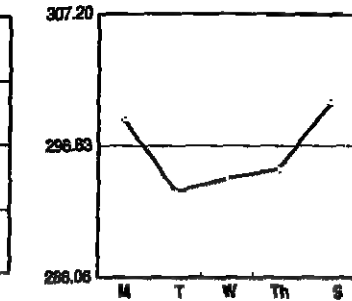
MARKETS

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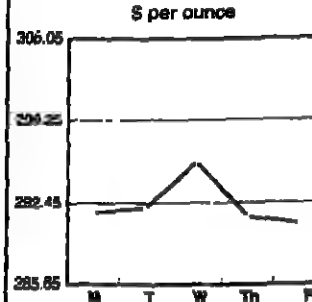
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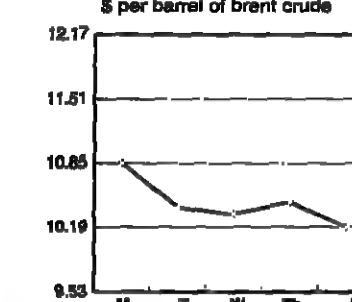
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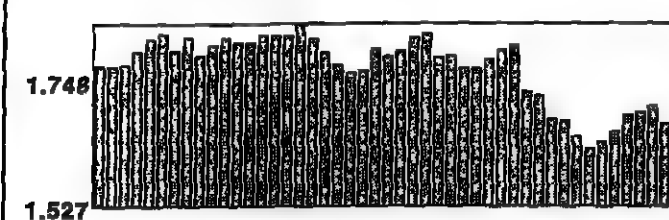
GOLD



OIL



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Israel Chemicals' final share sale today

The government intends to raise as much as NIS 1.3 billion by offering 28.75 percent of its holdings in Israel Chemicals on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange today. The government currently holds 31.5% of the chemical manufacturer and intends to sell the remaining shares to company workers. The shares will be offered for a maximum price of NIS 3.53 per share, similar to the closing price of the share yesterday. The tender includes five packages of stocks and options.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Robomatrix to raise capital in private offering

Robomatrix Technologies reported that it is to raise between \$5 million to \$10m. in capital from two private investment companies sometime over the next two months. The Ra'anana-based company, which develops parallel processors for high-speed computing, announced it has entered into an agreement in principle with the two companies, which have not been named. The latest round of financing should be completed within 60 days. The money is to be used to develop and promote the company's next-generation associative processor, the Xu3. The chip, which is now in the early design stage, is intended for a variety of high-end and consumer electronic devices. The announcement follows the recent acquisition of a controlling interest in Robomatrix by Focus Capital Group, a private merchant banking company located in Savoyon.

Nicky Blackburn

TASE prepares for 2000

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange is to begin an experiment today to check the readiness of its computerized trading system (Retzei) to face the Y2K millennium bug. In the test, the bourse will simulate the anticipated events of January 2, the first trading day of the year 2000. The TASE will be among the first few stock markets in the world to trade in the new millennium, as January 2 is on Sunday, when most world markets are closed.

Dan Gerstenfeld

IMF, Jordan concluding \$600m. aid talks

The International Monetary Fund is winding up negotiations with Jordan on \$600 million in loans and donations to support economic reforms in the next three years, a Jordanian Planning Minister Nabil Ammari said yesterday. He said an agreement is expected to be signed soon, but declined to provide details.

IMF support is needed to secure rescheduling of the 4.5 billion dinars (\$6.3 billion) foreign debt, whose annual servicing will top \$800 million in 1999, compared to about \$500 million now. Jordan's reserves had fallen by \$400m. to \$1.3b. in August from a peak \$1.7b. at the end of 1997. Economic growth fell from 2.2 percent in 1996 to 0.8 percent in 1997 and estimates for this year are even lower.

AP

Britain's GEC sets sights on Lockheed

British electronics and defense group the General Electric Company Plc (GEC) is trying to forge a tie-up with Lockheed-Martin Corp. the *Observer* newspaper reported yesterday. The paper said GEC "is keen to conclude a deal by the end of the year or early in 1999. The deal could involve a full, 25-billion-pound (\$41.65 billion) merger, it said, but added the most likely outcome is a merger of the two companies' defense divisions.

Reuters

ScotPower in merger talks with US PacifiCorp

British multi-utility Scottish Power Plc said yesterday it is in talks with US utility PacifiCorp about a merger. A spokesman said: "ScotPower can confirm that high-level talks are taking place this weekend. But it is not cut and dried. There are still issues." Although the deal is being billed as a merger, it is clear that ScotPower, the bigger of the two, would emerge as the dominant partner in the 4 billion pound (\$6.7 billion) link-up. The deal with PacifiCorp has been rumored for some time. ScotPower believes that, as with its acquisition of British electricity group Manweb and Southern Water, it is in a good position to cut costs and add value to its operations.

Reuters

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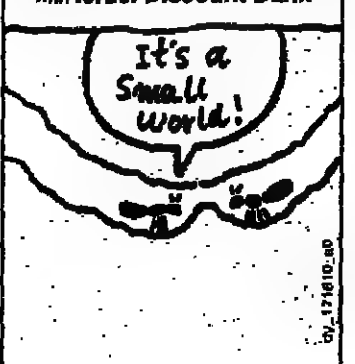
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Steinbrenner fuels runaway salaries

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(Reuters)

Vols stay top, will face Florida State for national title

NCAA FOOTBALL

ATLANTA (AP) — No. 1 Tennessee's designs on the national championship nearly ended in a flurry of blitzes and big plays by Mississippi State Saturday in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

But as they have done all through an undefeated season, the Volunteers responded to trouble and won 24-14.

With the win, Tennessee stayed atop the rankings and will go to the Fiesta Bowl on January 4 where they will play the Florida State Seminoles for the national title.

The Vols offense, stifled most of the night by Mississippi State's gambling defense, redeemed itself with a 75-yard drive after the Bulldogs took a 14-10 lead with less than nine minutes to play.

"We weren't playing like ourselves. We were playing like it was the first game of the season, not the 12th game," quarterback Tee Martin said. "When they went ahead we had to make it work. That was the bottom line. We had to make something work."

After Martin hit Peerless Price with a 41-yard touchdown to cap that drive, the swarming Tennessee defense got the ball right back at the Bulldogs 26. The Vols struck for the clinching score on the next play.

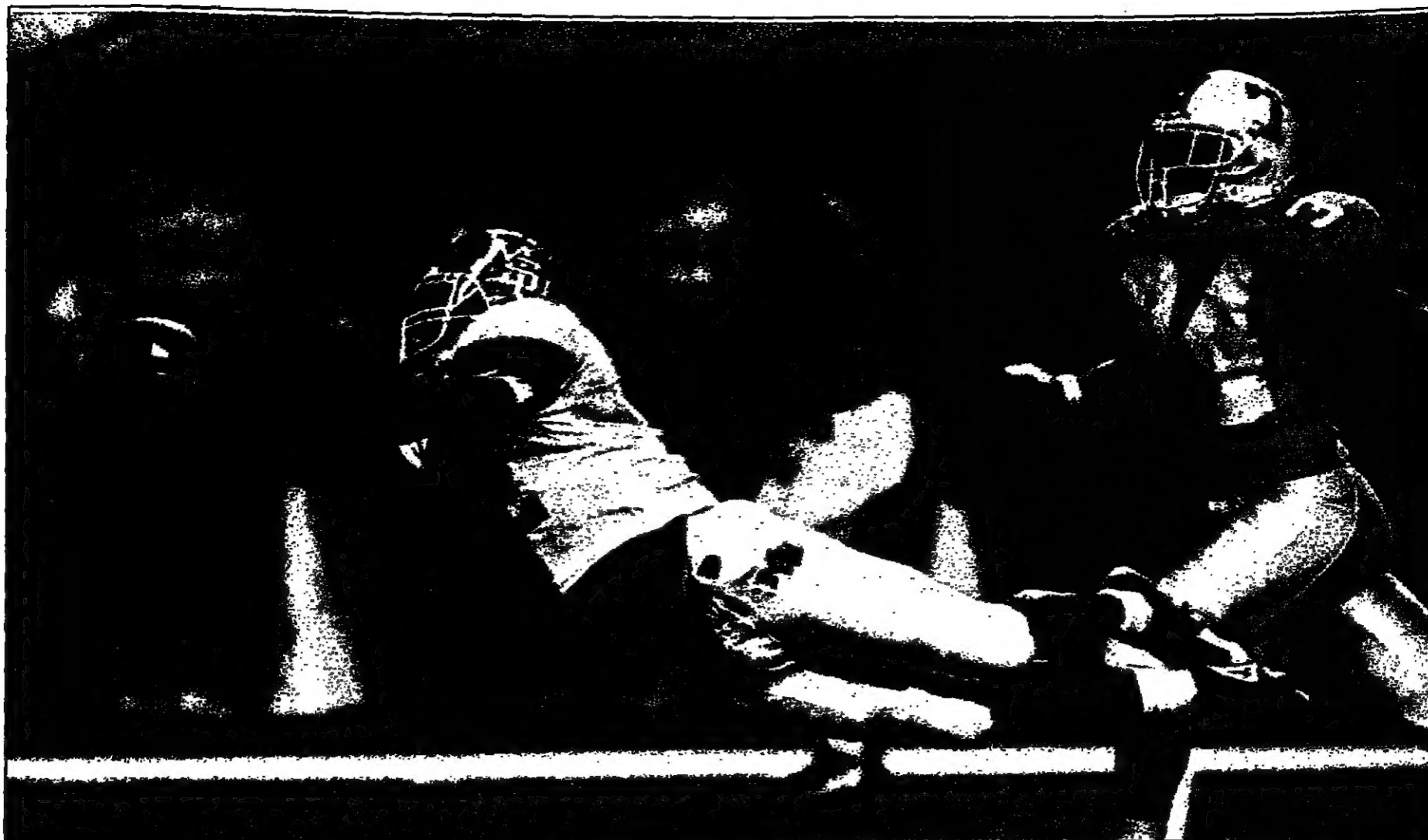
"We wanted to score right there on that first play just to let them know, hey, this game is over," said receiver Cedrick Wilson, who caught it.

In just three plays and 28 seconds of play, the Vols had transformed a fourth-quarter deficit into a round-trip ticket to the national championship game at the Fiesta Bowl.

Tennessee was the only one of the top three undefeated teams to avoid the upset bid on Saturday. UCLA and Kansas State both lost.

Miami 49, UCLA 45
When the greatest run in the history of UCLA football jackknifed to an end, the Bruins knew exactly what had transpired.

"Obviously," guard Andy Meyers said, "we were just holding on to something we couldn't obtain."



NO CIGAR — Mississippi State's Kevin Prentiss unsuccessfully lunges for the ball as Tennessee defender Steve Johnson gives chase. Tennessee won its 11th straight this season with a 24-14 victory.

The Miami Hurricanes smacked it from their hands Saturday, again embarrassing a defense that had suffered a similar fate much of the season and converting two fumble recoveries into fourth-quarter touchdowns to end the Bruins' school-record 20-game winning streak and their hopes for a national championship at the Orange Bowl.

The Bruins most likely will play in the Rose Bowl against Wisconsin on January 1, and Cade McNown passed for a school-record 513 yards, but this wasn't a moment to look for the silver lining.

The head coach knew it immediately. "They know that they let

something slip away," Bob Toledo said.

The rest of the staff knew it immediately. "This is as tough as it gets," said Nick Aliotti, the defensive coordinator already braced for another round of abuse after the Bruins blew a 38-21 lead and gave up 689 yards in total offense, 89 more than Nebraska had in 1983 in the previous worst showing in school history. "We were so close to something so special that it might only come around once in your lifetime."

The players knew it immediately. "It's the worst feeling I've ever felt in my life," cornerback Jason Bell said of staying on the sideline for several minutes after the first

loss in 15 months, poised nearly motionless on one knee as some of the 46,819 fans jumped the orange railings that ring the stands. "Just the worst feeling."

It was about the same in the locker room, the Bruins not needing any time to have reality set in, aware from nearly the moment that Edgerrin James capped his 299-yard day with a 1-yard run with 50 seconds remaining that they were out of the January 4 Fiesta Bowl, which will determine the national champion.

No. 10 Texas A&M 36
No. 2 Kansas St. 33 (2 OT)
At St. Louis, Sirr Parker caught a 32-yard touchdown pass as the Aggies, who trailed by 15 points

entering the fourth quarter, rallied for the upset.

Texas A and M (11-2) tied it with 1:05 left in the fourth quarter when Parker caught a 9-yard scoring pass from Brandon Stewart and then

grabbed a 2-point conversion pass.

Kansas State (11-1) almost won on the final play of regulation when Michael Bishop completed a 55-yard Hail Mary pass to Everett Burnett at the 2.

College Football Top 25

- How the top 25 teams fared this week:
1. Tennessee (12-0) beat No. 23 Mississippi State 24-14.
 2. Kansas State (11-1) lost to No. 10 Texas A&M 36-33, 2OT.
 3. UCLA (10-1) lost to Miami 49-45.
 4. Florida State (11-1) did not play.
 5. Ohio State (10-1) did not play.
 6. Arizona (11-1) did not play.
 7. Florida (9-2) did not play.
 8. Wisconsin (10-1) did not play.
 9. Tulane (11-0) did not play.
 10. Texas A&M (11-2) beat No. 2 Kansas State 36-33, 2OT.
 11. Arkansas (9-2) did not play.
 12. Georgia Tech (9-2) did not play.
 13. Nebraska (9-3) did not play.
 14. Virginia (9-2) did not play.
 15. Michigan (9-3) did not play.
 16. Notre Dame (9-2) did not play.
 17. Air Force (11-1) beat Brigham Young 20-13.
 18. Syracuse (8-3) did not play.
 19. Georgia (8-3) did not play.
 20. Texas (8-3) did not play.
 21. Oregon (8-3) did not play.
 22. Penn State (8-3) did not play.
 23. Mississippi State (8-4) lost to No. 1 Tennessee 24-14.
 24. Missouri (7-4) did not play.
 25. Virginia Tech (8-3) did not play.

Final verdict expected in German drugs trial

BERLIN (Reuters) — The first trial to put former East Germany's doping policy under the spotlight should come to an end with a verdict today.

Prosecutors have called for a DM 14,400 (\$8,592) fine for Bernd Finsold, the last of six officials of the swimming section of Berlin club SC Dynamo to be judged.

Finsold, 56, was the club's head doctor. Like the others on trial he is accused of having caused bodily harm to female swimmers by giving them banned drugs in the 1970s and 1980s.

Two of those accused, doctor Dieter Binus and coach Rolf Glaeser, have been convicted by the court and fined.

The other three — coaches Volker Frischke, Dieter Krause and Dieter Lindemann — saw the cases against them dropped after paying fines.

Under German law, a court can decide to drop charges in return for payment of a fine if it believes the case does not justify the time and resources needed to bring it to a verdict.

Coaches from other sports, notably athletics, are currently under investigation and more trials should follow.

Prosecutors also hope to bring sports officials in the former East German communist party leadership to book for doping. Investigations are under way and charges are expected to be filed soon.

A study by historian Gisela Spitzer released this week said some 10,000 athletes were given banned performance-enhancing drugs such as steroids under the state-ordered program which started in 1968 and lasted until German unification in 1990.

Some 500 athletes who used to compete for East Germany suffer from illnesses related to the taking of drugs, including cancer, liver and heart diseases and gynecological damage, Spitzer wrote.

ISRAEL ELECTRIC TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation invites bids for the supply of the following goods:

Tender No. 2810
Subject: Sale of used track type tractor — Caterpillar D10N 1988

Guided tours will take place at the Israel Electric Corporation's Meir David warehouse in Hadera on:
Sunday, December 27, 1998 at 10 a.m.
Monday, January 4, 1999 at 10 a.m.

Those interested in taking part in the tour must register in advance with Mr. B. Biryanin, Sales Dept., Tel. 03-565-4678/888 (Fax: 03-565-4844) in order to arrange an entry permit to the site.

Pre-condition: A deposit in the form of a bank check payable to the Israel Electric Corporation in the amount of 10% of the value of the bid.

Last date for submitting bids: January 17, 1999, at 11 a.m.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday — Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment for the documents (non-refundable) into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address by calling 04-868 7455/4. Before purchasing the tender documents, potential bidders may peruse them, Sunday — Thursday, 9 a.m. — 12 noon, at the above offices or at the Sales Department, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, entrance C, 1st floor, Tel. 03-565-4678, 03-565-4841. (An appointment to peruse the documents must be made beforehand, with the Sales Department.) Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and be placed in Tender Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) not later than 11 a.m. on the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

Bids may NOT be submitted at the offices of the Israel Electric Corporation in Tel Aviv. Bids submitted to the Tel Aviv offices will be disqualified. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest/highest or any bid. In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

The tender documents may be read on the IEC's Internet site: WWW.ISRAEL-ELECTRIC.CO.IL

תחומים על שירות סוב יתור

NCAA BASKETBALL

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — There wasn't much that kept Jim Calhoun from smiling Saturday. His top-ranked Connecticut Huskies had just beaten No. 9 Michigan State 82-68 in an impressive outing in front of a wild home crowd and a national TV audience.

His smile got a little wider though when he was asked about the shooting struggles of Richard Hamilton, the Huskies' preseason All-America guard.

"Part of why I'm feeling so good is that we passed a tough test and we beat a very good team by 14 points without our best player," Calhoun said, referring to Hamilton's 11 points on 5-of-14 shooting, including 1-for-6 from 3-point range.

But the Huskies (6-0) had many other weapons on the floor: sophomore point guard Khalid El-Amin had 20 points, 12 on 3s, and six assists; junior center Jake Voskuhl had 17 points on 7-of-10 shooting; junior power forward Kevin Freeman had 16 points and six rebounds; sophomore reserve Albert Mouring had 11 points in 16 minutes; and the most impressive may have been the defense of senior guard Ricky Moore.

Moore held Michigan State's preseason All-America guard Mateen Cleaves to six points on 2-for-15 shooting, including 1-for-7 from beyond the arc.

Connecticut moved to No. 1 for the first time in school history on February 13, 1995, then lost its second game and didn't get back to the top until last Monday.

The Huskies beat No. 15 Washington in the Great Eight and then did in Michigan State to stay No. 1 for at least one more week.

No. 4 Duke 89
No. Carolina St. 69

For all practical purposes, Duke's home victory over North Carolina State was decided in the first six possessions when the Wolfpack could barely make it over half court, let alone score a basket.

"The game wasn't over, but the tempo was definitely set," Shane Battier said of the early defensive barrage by the No. 4 Blue Devils.

"We basically told them it was going to be a tough night with a lot of defensive pressure. That was accomplished by that early start."

That was an understatement as the Wolfpack coughed up the ball a season-high 29 times as Duke began its chase for a third straight Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title.



UNDER HIS SKIN — North Carolina State guard Adam Harrington is fouled by Duke's Trajan Langdon as he drives toward the basket in second-half action. Duke won 89-69.

"Any time a team turns it over you can see it in their eyes, you can see the frustration," said Battier, who had three of Duke's 10 steals. "That's the time to develop the killer instinct and really pounce on a team."

Elton Brand led the way with a career-high 26 points, while ACC scoring leader Trajan Langdon added 17 for the Blue Devils (7-1, 1-0), who won their 25th straight in steamy Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The Blue Devils have won 32 of their last 37 regular-season ACC games and are attempting to string together three league crowns for the first time since North Carolina did it from 1976-78.

No. 6 Cincinnati 106
Oakland 78

Coach Greg Kampe thought his Oakland, Michigan, team had one chance to beat No. 6 Cincinnati — make the host Bearcats shoot from long range.

But that was a bad idea. Cincinnati normally likes to out-muscle opponents around the basket but, taking what was given, set a school record for 3-pointers in beating the Golden Grizzlies.

"Our game plan was to pack it in," Kampe said. "We said, 'Give them the 3s, and we were going to stick with that no matter what. We didn't think they could shoot that well.'"

Steve Logan and Melvin Levet

each scored 28 points for Cincinnati (5-0).

Coll. of Charleston 66
No. 3 North Carolina 64

Danny Johnson hit a follow shot with one-tenth of a second left and the College of Charleston surprised North Carolina (8-1).

Johnson's basket capped the Cougars' comeback from eight points down with 12 minutes left in the final game of the Food Lion MVP Classic, and it gave him 11 points in what arguably was the biggest victory in the history of the program.

Charleston (4-2) had never played a team ranked this high and had lost seven of its previous 10 games against ranked opponents.

Army's win over Navy marred by railing collapse

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Army vs. Navy is supposed to be more than just a game, but it was not supposed to be like this.

Army beat Navy 34-30 in one of college football's greatest rivalries Saturday, but the highest-scoring game in the 99-year history of the series was marred by an accident in which nine people fell out of the stands and were injured.

The accident occurred after Ty Amey's 70-yard touchdown run gave Army a 31-30 lead. A railing behind the east end zone gave way, and Army cadets and prep students fell about 15 feet onto the playing field.

Seven of the nine injured were expected to be released with injuries such as sprained ankles, necks and backs, a US Military Academy spokesman said.

Two more were also in stable condition, but needed more tests, including the one with a broken bone in his neck.

After a 31-minute delay, Eric Olsen's 26-yard field goal provided the final margin as Army (3-8) avenged last year's 39-7 loss to Navy (3-8).

The 64 points broke the previous record of 55, reached in 1959 and 1983.

The comeback and the collapsed railings overshadowed a record-breaking performance by Navy's Ryan Read, whose 128 pass receiving yards were the most ever in the fabled series, which began in 1890.

Read's 69-yard TD reception from Brian Broadwater in the second quarter was the longest pass play in series history. It was Navy's longest pass play in this game since Roger Staubach, who later went on to play professionally with the Dallas Cowboys, hit Nick Markoff for 65 yards in 1962.

Read's three catches for 128 yards broke a venerable 84-year-old reception record held by West Point's Lou Merillat, who had amassed 115 yards in the 1914 game.

No. 18 UCLA 69
No. 11 Oklahoma St. 66
Baron Davis got a hand on a potential tying 3-pointer by Joe Adkins with about eight seconds remaining to preserve UCLA's home win.

Sophomore Earl Watson led the Bruins (4-2) with 14 points.

Freshman Jerome Moiso added 13 and reserve Travis Reed & Davis had seven points in 19 minutes. He sat out most of the second half and played the final minutes with three fouls.

Oklahoma 87
No. 19 Arkansas 57

Eric Martin scored a career-high 23 points and Oklahoma used 13 3-pointers to win at home.

Derek Hood had 12 points and 11 rebounds for Arkansas (5-2), which shot just 39 percent in losing for the second time in three games. The loss was the Razorbacks' worst since losing by 35 to Cincinnati two seasons ago.

Boise St. 69
No. 15 Washington 61

Roberto Bergersen scored a career-high 32 points and Richard Morgan led a first half comeback with nine points as Boise State won its 17th straight home game.

No. 21 Utah 61
Long Beach State 54

Andre Miller's career-high 29 points, including six free throws in the final 38 seconds, led visiting Utah.

Miller scored 18 of the Utes' final 19 points. Alex Jensen had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Utah (4-3).

College Basketball Top 25

- How the top 25 teams fared this week:
1. Connecticut (6-0) beat No. 5 Michigan State 82-68.
 2. Maryland (6-0) did not play.
 3. North Carolina (8-1) lost to College of Charleston 66-64.
 4. Duke (7-1) beat North Carolina State 89-69.
 5. Stanford (4-1) did not play.
 6. Cincinnati (5-0) beat Oakland, Mich. 106-78.
 7. Kansas (5-1) beat Pepperdine 82-55.
 8. Kentucky (7-1) beat Miami 74-55.
 9. Michigan State (4-3) lost to No. 1.
 10. Connecticut 82-68.
 11. Temple (4-3) lost to No. 18 Indiana 63-62.
 12. Oklahoma State (4-2) lost to No. 18.
 13. Syracuse (7-1) beat Santa Clara 85-75.
 14. Arizona (4-0) beat Wyoming 94-84.
 15. Purdue (7-1) beat No. 23 Xavier 71-57.
 16. Washington (4-2) lost to Boise State 69-61.
 17. Indiana (8-1) beat No. 10 Temple 63-62.
 18. New Mexico (5-0) did not play.
 19. UCLA (4-2) beat No. 11 Oklahoma State 69-66.
 20. Arkansas (5-2) lost to Oklahoma 87-57.
 21. Pittsburgh (7-1) did not play.
 22. Utah (4-3) beat Long Beach State 61-57.
 23. Miami, Ohio (4-2) lost to Wisconsin-Green Bay 78-60.
 24. Xavier (5-3) lost to No. 14 Purdue 71-57.
 25. St. John's (6-2) beat Boston College 74-55.

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Comeback kid Corretja downs Moya again

LA CORUNA (Reuters) - Alex Corretja staged another successful comeback against Carlos Moya yesterday, adding the Spanish national title to the ATP world crown he took in Hanover last week.

Corretja recovered from losing the first set on a tie-break to run out a 6-7 (4-7) 7-5 6-4 winner in two hours.

The result left Corretja 2-1 ahead in their meetings this season following Moya's victory in the French Open final and last week's rematch in the Hanover final.

SCOREBOARD

GERMAN SOCCER - TSV 1860 Munich 2, Borussia Dortmund 0
Striker Markus Schuster scored both his side's goals, from just inside the penalty area in the 34th minute and with a header in the 82nd. There were few other highlights of a game played in a snowfall.

DAVIS CUP FINAL - Sweden beat Italy 4-1 after yesterday's singles. Yesterday's results: Magnus Gustafsson beat Gianluca Pozzi 6-4, 6-2; Magnus Norman lost to Diego Nargiso 6-2, 6-3.

49ers rally for OT win

CHARLOTTE, NC (AP) - It didn't take long for the San Francisco 49ers to show signs that they miss their defensive leader. Six days after the 49ers lost tackle Bryant Young for the season with a broken leg, San Francisco blew a 21-point lead in the final 16 minutes of regulation before defeating Carolina 31-28 in overtime yesterday.

A Carolina fumble set up Wade Richey's 23-yard field goal on San Francisco's first possession of the extra period, securing a victory that assures the 49ers of at least a wild-card berth in the playoffs.

The 49ers (10-3) finished with 236 yards rushing, the most allowed by Carolina in its nearly four-year history.

Steve Young threw for 213 yards and two touchdowns and Garrison Hearst rushed for 139 yards and a score as the 49ers extended their NFL record of consecutive 10-victory seasons to 16. The 49ers' Terry Kirby added 68 yards rushing and a halfback option pass for another score.

Falcons 28, Colts 21

Chris Chandler's ankle is just fine.

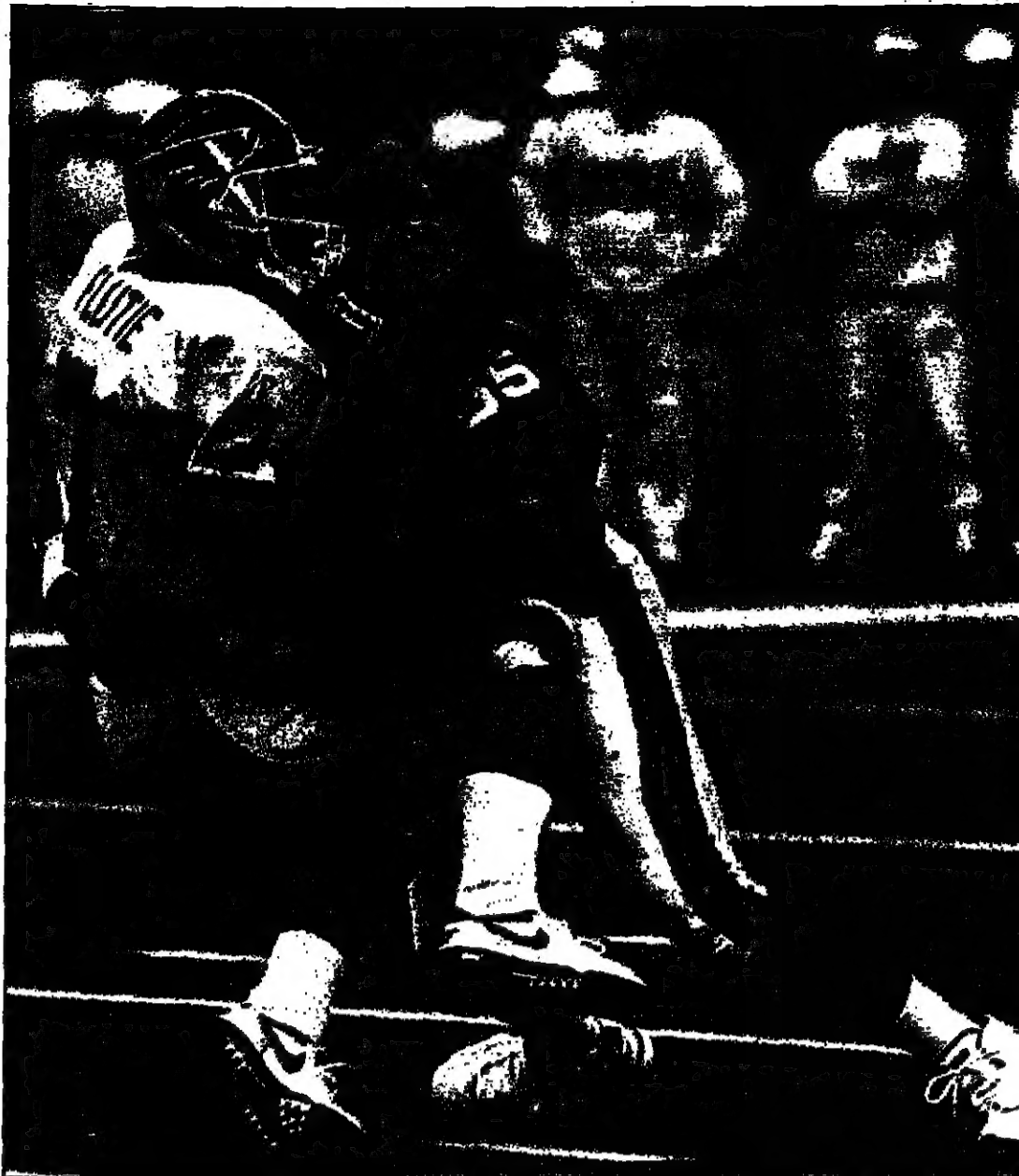
The Atlanta quarterback, sidelined last week with a sprained right ankle, ran for one touchdown and threw for two more as host Atlanta rallied from 14 points down to win their sixth straight game.

Chandler shook off five sacks to complete 20-of-28 for 297 yards, his best game in two years with Atlanta. The NFC West-leading Falcons (11-2), who trailed 14-0 and 21-7, went ahead by scoring three touchdowns in just over a three-minute span at the end of the first half and beginning the second.

Quarterback Peyton Manning, playing before several thousand orange-clad Tennessee fans who attended the Southeastern Conference championship game at the Georgia Dome the night before, was 19-of-27 for 159 yards and a touchdown to become the most prolific rookie passer in NFL history.

Jets 32, Seahawks 31

On a day when he nearly wore out his arm, Vinny Testaverde used his legs to lift host New York to a wild comeback victory. And in this season of officiating controversy, Testaverde got a kind boost from the officials.



SMOTHERED - Bengals' Reinard Wilson sacks Bills QB Doug Flutie in second-quarter action. Buffalo beat Cincinnati 33-20.

After throwing a career-high 63 times, completing 42 for 418 yards and two TDs, Testaverde ran for the winning touchdown on fourth down with 20 seconds left. Although replays showed he didn't reach the end zone, a touchdown was signaled after a long delay, giving the Jets the victory.

It was New York's sixth straight home victory and kept it atop the AFC East at 9-4. It was construct-

ed by the league's sixth-ranked offense, which committed three turnovers, but had the moxie to overcome them, thanks to Testaverde.

The AFC's top-rated passer found Keyshawn Johnson nine times for 114 yards and the touchdown that closed the Jets to 31-26.

He calmly led them downfield on their final drive, and drove a stake in the playoff hopes of the

Seahawks (6-7).

Redskins 24, Chargers 20

Twice, San Diego's top-rated defense left a host Washington receiver all alone in the end zone for a touchdown. It was one time too many.

In other action yesterday, the Patriots whipped the Steelers 23-9 and the Bills beat the Bengals 33-20 and the Saints routed the Cowboys 22-3.

Maccabi routs Holon; Jerusalem sink Eilat

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

To the victor go the spoils, and Maccabi Tel Aviv's Victor Alexander certainly spoiled any chance Hapoel Holon had of pulling an upset last night, pouring in 25 points on 100% shooting to lead his club to a 111-73 victory and first place in the Orange League.

Scoring inside and outside in the early going, Alexander carved out his own kingdom under the boards with 21 first-half points, keying Maccabi to an early 21-9 lead that just grew like Topsy from there.

Hapoel Jerusalem also came back from the league layoff with a vengeance, crushing Hapoel Eilat, 107-75 at Mitha in a game that was over at halftime, when Jerusalem already led 60-40.

Elsewhere in the league, Maccabi Ra'anana held off Maccabi Haifa 84-77; Maccabi Ramat Gan pushed Hapoel Tel Aviv closer to relegation with a 75-68 away victory; Givat Shmuel outlasted Hapoel Galil Elyon 74-72 and Maccabi Rishon LeZion beat Be'er Herzliya 96-84.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 111

Hapoel Holon 73

Perhaps more important than the lopsided victory, achieved without Oded Katsali, was the fact that coach Fimi Gershon got to give so much playing time to newcomers David Benoit and Zdravko Radulovic. Both were impressive, Radulovic not only for his shooting (two three pointers, 10 points) but also his passing and running the break. He looked perfectly suited to the running offense Gershon wants Maccabi (7-1) to play.

The game itself was over almost before it started. Alexander hit three straight hoops over his defender, David Sternlich, who had no chance of guarding the much bigger Maccabi center. Nadav Henefeld had a fine game, scoring 10 of his 15 points in the first half.

Meanwhile Maccabi simply shut down Holon, their airtight defense taking any zip out of Holon's offense anytime they got close. Only Ryan Lerner was a serious threat, but with Maccabi going 94% from the foul line and 84% from two points, there was little Holon fans could do but watch in awe. Truth be told, only a team

could've stopped Maccabi last night, and Maccabi fans can only hope the team can keep to form Thursday vs. Red Star Belgrade, when Benoit and Radulovic will not be eligible to play.

Hapoel Jerusalem 107

Hapoel Eilat 75

Maybe Jerusalem should have disciplinary problems more often. After a week in which Kenny Williams was fined for returning late from the US and Derrick Hamilton was disciplined for showing up late for practice, Jerusalem (7-1) struggled it all off and slugged Eilat (4-5).

With H. Waldman and Papi Turgeman shutting down Corey Gaines and Amir Katz, Eilat had nowhere to turn for points. Jerusalem, meanwhile, couldn't stop scoring them, and outscored Eilat 39-12 over the last 12 minutes of the half to turn the game into one long session of garbage time.

Tomorrow, Jerusalem takes on Tofas of Turkey in Saporta Cup action.

Maccabi Ra'anana 84

Maccabi Haifa 77

Mark Brisker's 24 points keyed Ra'anana (5-4) and new point guard Gerald Abram was a pleasant surprise. Barak Peleg also contributed to Ra'anana's away victory, while Haifa (3-6) continued its downward spiral after some early season heroics.

Maccabi Ramat Gan 75

Hapoel Tel Aviv 68

A flurry of three-pointers by Uri Cohen-Mintz opened up the gap for Ramat Gan (4-5) who started out the season as league doormats but have come on of late. Hapoel Tel Aviv (1-7) once again failed to win a close game at home, and the clock is ticking towards relegation.

Maccabi Rishon LeZion 96

Be'er Herzliya 84

Evergreen duo Doron Jamchi (18 points) and Motti Dagiel (17) keyed the victory for Rishon (4-5).

National Basketball League

Team	W	L
Maccabi Tel Aviv	7	1
Hapoel Jerusalem	7	1
Hapoel Holon	6	3
Maccabi Ra'anana	5	4
Hapoel Eilat	4	5
Be'er Herzliya	4	5
Maccabi Ramat Gan	4	5
Ashdod	4	5
Gali Elyon	4	4
Maccabi Haifa	3	6
Givat Shmuel	3	6

FA Cup third-round draw

Draw for the third round of the Football Association Cup made yesterday: Sheffield Wednesday v Norwich, Manchester United v Middlesbrough, Sheffield United v Notts County or Wigan, Southampton v Fulham, Tranmere v Ipswich, Swindon v Barnsley, Blackburn Rovers v Charlton Athletic, Nottingham Forest v Portsmouth, Bournemouth v West Bromwich, Wycombe or Plymouth v Derby County, Leicester City v Birmingham, Queens Park Rangers v Huddersfield, Tottenham Hotspur v Watford, Doncaster or Rushden and Diamonds v Leeds United, Clitham or Brentford v Chelsea, Southport v Kingstonian or Leyton Orient, Port Vale v Liverpool, Wimbledon v Darlington or Manchester City, Newcastle United v Crystal Palace, Bradford v Grimsby, Bristol City v Everton, Crewe v Oxford, Bolton v Wolverhampton, Preston v Arsenal, Coventry City v Macclesfield, Rochdale or Rotherham v Exeter or Bristol Rovers, West Ham United v Swansea, Wrexham v Scunthorpe, Aston Villa v Hull, Bury v Stockport, Lincoln v Sunderland, Cardiff v Yeovil. Ties to be played on January 2 or 3.

Boro, Newcastle in 2-2 draw

MIDDLESBROUGH (AP) - Substitute Nikos Dabizas headed an equalizer seven minutes from the end a minute after leaving the bench as Newcastle twice hit back to earn a 2-2 tie with Middlesbrough yesterday.

The Greek forward sent a long-range looping header over Boro's Australian goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer from Laurent Charvet's rightwing cross to earn Roud

Gullit's team a point. Neither team climbed as a result of the tie. Boro remaining seventh and Newcastle 13th. It was Middlesbrough's sixth tie in seven Premier League matches and ninth in all.

England striker Alan Shearer failed a late fitness test on a hamstring injury so that he still has to make his first appearance alongside Duncan Ferguson in the Newcastle attack.

Paul Gascoigne, who started his career with Newcastle, set up the first Middlesbrough goal with a clever corner kick to the unmarked Andy Townsend, who lofted his shot over the head of debutant 'keeper Steve Harper, from 15 meters.

That gave Boro a 13th minute lead but Newcastle leveled in the 38th with a powerful 20-meter drive from Laurent Charvet.

Harper made two stunning saves from Brian Deane and Townsend before Middlesbrough regained the lead with Colin Cooper's deflected shot in the 59th minute.

But Newcastle hit back again and substitute Dabizas netted the leveler in the 83rd minute.

In an FA Cup 2nd-round result yesterday, it was Kingstonian 0, Leyton Orient 0.

Team	G	W	D	L	GA	Pts
Aston Villa	15	8	6	1	23	30
Man United	15	8	5	2	31	29
Leeds	16	6	8	2	26	26
Arsenal	16	6	8	2	15	26
West Ham	16	7	5	4	20	26
Chelsea	14	6	7	1	22	25
Middlesbrough	16	5	9	2	26	24
Wimbledon	16	6	5	5	21	24
Liverpool	16	6	4	6	22	22
Derby	16	5	7	4	15	22
Tottenham	16	6	4	6	21	22
Leicester	16	5	5	6	18	21
Newcastle	16	5	5	6	21	21
Everton	16	4	7	5	10	19
Sheff Wed	15	4	7	4	15	16
Charlton	16	3	7	6	22	16
Coventry	16	4	3	9	14	15
Blackburn	16	3	3	10	15	12
Notts Forest	15	2	5	8	12	11
Southampton	16	2	4	10	33	10

Greece rackets prevail

A 2-0 defeat at the hands of Greece yesterday means that Israel's tennis team remains in Group 1 of the European Nations Cup played in Athens yesterday.

Koby Ziv lost 6-7, 6-4, 7-6 to Constantinos Economidis and Amir Hadad was defeated by Anastinos Vassiliadis 6-3, 6-0. Greece was promoted to the world group.

Heather Chait

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THE WEATHER

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ISRAEL

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Israel: Mostly cloudy north to partly sunny south, but showers are likely tonight into tomorrow as a cold front moves in off the Mediterranean Sea.

EGYPT

Eilat 30/18

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	Low	High	Today	Low	High	Today	Low	High	Today	Low	High
Arid	24/75	125/30	22/71	105/30	19/68	28/82	17/62	54/100	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56
Beth Shimon	27/80	16/10	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Dead Sea	31/88	18/60	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Eilat	30/85	18/60	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Hai	28/76	18/60	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Jerusalem	22/71	125/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30
Katrin	22/71	125/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30
Nahariya	22/71	125/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30
Tel Aviv	27/80	16/10	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Tiberias	28/82	14/57	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30

Weather (W): s-sunny, p-partially cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, th-thunderstorms, rain, s-snow, flurries, snow, ice.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Low	High	Today	Low	High	Today	Low	High	Today	Low	High
Amsterdam	35/57	10/44	-1/31	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11
Berlin	5/34	-2/29	-1/31	-2/29	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11
Buenos Aires	23/73	23/73	74/140	23/73	23/73	74/140	23/73	23/73	74/140	23/73	23/73	74/140
Calcutta	22/80	18/60	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Chicago	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11
Frankfurt	3/27	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11
Hong Kong	21/70	125/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30
London	22/71	125/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30
Los Angeles	17/62	11/33	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Moscow	10/50	0/32	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Mumbai	24/75	125/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30
Montreal	13/55	10/44	6/37	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11
Moscow	10/50	0/32	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
New York	18/68	12/53	33/77	52/36	33/77	52/36	33/77	52/36	33/77	52/36	33/77	52/36
Paris	8/35	23/73	74/140	23/73	23/73	74/140	23/73	23/73	74/140	23/73	23/73	74/140
Prague	7/20	-11/73	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11
Puerto Rico	25/77	19/68	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Rome	54/100	42/58	54/100	42/58	54/100	42/58	54/100	42/58	54/100	42/58	54/100	42/58
Sydney	29/79	19/68	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Tokyo	17/62	11/33	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30	21/70	74/140	23/73	135/56	22/71	125/30
Toronto	14/57	23/73	33/77	52/36	33/77	52/36	33/77	52/36	33/77	52/36	33/77	52/36
Vienna	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11
Winnipeg	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11
Washington	21/70	125/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30	19/68	105/30
Zurich	3/27	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11	4/35	-12/11				